OPPOSITION BACKLASH OVER FISCAL PLAN, PG 8





Human rights award winners in Calgary

ZIMBABWE A tour of the winners of one of the country's most prestigious international human rights awards made a stop in Calgary last night.

Calgary was the first stop of five Canadian cities by the winners of the John Humphrey Freedom Award.

The Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights were the winners this year, and director Irene Petras said she was happy with the Calgary response.

"We really want to raise the awareness of the situation in Zimbabwe. There is a very difficult human rights situation," she said.

The group spoke at the Glenbow Museum yesterday.

METRO CALGARY



Christie Courtland and David Joseph, who is visiting from Houston, get a sneak peek of what's to come at the Glenbow Museum exhibits Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend, and Marilyn Monroe: Some Like it Haute, open from Nov. 27 to 29.

Take 5 pg 35

Make it tonight

Sports pg 22

Two third period goals give Flames the win

Movies pg 24

Metro picks for Oscars



Holiday horror

Fiery Colorado crash claims seven believed from Alberta

KRISTA SYLVESTER krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Seven people, including an infant and a toddler believed to be from Alberta, were killed in a horrific car accident yesterday in Colorado.

The group was driving around 4:30 a.m. in a Chevrolet Suburban on Highway I-25 near Johnstown, 65 km's north of Denver on the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday when the car slammed into a guardrail.

"The car went into the

Gilbert Mares told Metro.
"The vehicle was still in flames when emergency responders arrived."

Mares was one of the responding officers on scene and confirmed five of the dead were male and two

rail and flew off the inter-

state and fell onto an em-

bankment on the highway

below, and burst into

state trooper

"We don't know what caused the accident yet, but we know that drugs, alcohol or weather conditions

were female. Both children

Watch emergency crews investigate the crash scene at metronews.ca/local

were not a factor in the accident," he added.

Mares said there haven't been any witnesses because of the time of the crash.

The medical examiner from Larimer County Coroner's Officer working on the case said all indications are the people were from Alberta.

"Identifications are pending and we're working with Alberta authorities in notifying the next of kin. The autopsies are planned for (today)," Maury Miller said, adding they will use DNA and dental records to make a positive identification of the victims.

RCMP spokesperson Patrick Webb said the typical identification process in these types of situations involve American authorities contacting Interpol, who then contacts the appropriate police or RCMP authorities.

"Sometimes they give us an unofficial heads up, but we haven't heard anything. They could be from anywhere in Alberta," he added.

Mumbai woman says city resilient

TERROR ATTACKS In the midst of the ongoing terrorist hostage situation in Mumbai and the aftermath of the attacks that left over 100 dead and dozens more injured, the city must go on, says an Indian actress.

Calgary Indian radio host Ranjit Sidhuand was relieved to find out his 36year-old cousin from Mumbai was safe from the recent attacks.

Metro contacted his cousin Suruchi Aulakh in Mumbai and she said as terrifying as the attacks are, the city will carry on.

"In some

sense we

are getting

used to it.

but we are

becoming

"It's
just part
of our
culture,
but we
will get
up and go
to work
tomorrow. In
some
sense we

some sense we sense we are used to it, but angry."

we are becoming angry and we must go on," the theatre actress said.

Even as terrorists are still holding hostages inside two downtown hotels, Aulakh said the city will return to work because it's their way of life.

"I can't be too scared to go to the malls, to work, to dinner. The terrorists hit a posh area of the city, where nobody thought it would ever happen. They want to instill fear in us, but I can't stay in my home forever." KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

MORE COVERAGE ON PG. 14



Watch as the tragedy hits close to home for Calgary's Indian community at metronews.ca/local

Discover a new world of flavour with Canton Beans in a sauce



were male.





Province's police can now seize and auction illegal property

Alberta's police forces have been given added freedom in their fight against crime as the provincial legislature recently amended a bill that will allow courts to seize and auction property connected with illegal activity. METRO CALGARY

Local



Police seek missing girl

Calgary police are seeking the public's help locating a 14-yearold girl wearing a blue cast on her right wrist who packed up her belongings into a green garbage bag and left her home Monday. Morgan McMillan, left, is five-foot-four and weighs about 125 pounds. Anyone with information is asked to call 403-266-1234 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Road rage shooting leads to charges

NEIL MACKINNON

neil.mackinnon@metronews.ca

A Calgary man faces six counts of attempted murder and five firearms-related charges after an unprecedented road rage incident last month.

Other than motions made at one another and a verbal exchange, police wouldn't say exactly what sparked the Oct. 29 attack on the 1800 block of 11th Avenue SW.

An SUV carrying four people opened fire on another vehicle carrying six, delivering a rapid succession of at least 10 blasts from a semi-automatic handgun

"This is the first incident I've heard of a road rage

incident escalating to the point of gunfire," said Staff Sgt. Dean Lagrange.

One man was shot in the leg during the shooting, which took place at a low driving speed over about a block and a half.

The man's injuries were not life-threatening and he continues to recover, said Lagrange

None of the people in Lee Gabinet, 28, has been



Staff Sgt. Dean the Lagrange

each other, Lagrange said, and alcohol may have been a contributing factor in inci-

dent. Robert

attempted murder and hicles knew firearm-related five charges after being picked up on a search warrant at an Evansbrooke Way NW Wednesday residence

night.
"Why it escalated to this extremity is anybody's guess," said Lagrange. When emotions get that riled up, it's hard to imag-

charged with six counts of

ine what other people will do."

Gabinet, still in custody, was a passenger in the SUV where the gunshots came from and was not known to police, said Lagrange.

Police are investigating whether the gun used in this incident may have been involved in other

No salary rollbacks for Alberta's Tories, Stelmach announces

JEFF CUMMINGS

The Alberta government will spend its money much more prudently to

weather the worldwide "I'm not going to economic meltdown. that ... The salaries are won't include roughly equal to or rolling back a pay in the middle range recent politi- compared to other hike cians gave jurisdictions." themselves spring, Ed Stelmach

announced the premier. "I'm not going to hit the panic button," said Premier Ed Stelmach during a media scrum yesterday.

"The salaries are roughly equal to or in the middle range compared to other jurisdictions."

Stelmach's 23-member

cabinet voted for the hike behind closed doors in May to boost their pay by as much as 30 per cent.

The move also made the premier's salary jump by \$54,000 to \$213,450.

Ottawa announced plans hit the panic button week to curb government perks, including the termination of a cent pay hike for MPs because of the economic situation in

Canada.

Along with the wage rollbacks, the federal government has also announced restrictions on travel and entertainment, along with cutting back on business-class travelling.



Neville Atmodjo takes advantage of a beautiful day on the recently laid ice surface at Olympic Plaza to practice a few moves.

News in brief

STEINKE A jury was warned the photograph evidence they were about to view was graphic in nature as they were walked into court one by one vesterday.

Blood stain expert Sqt. Serge Larocque of Edmonton's RCMP crime lab explained to jurors how the blood of the murder trial's victims - an eight-yearold boy and his parents — ended up on the walls, carpet and ceilings of the home. Jeremy Steinke is on trial for the triple murder.

METRO CALGARY

metrenews.ca WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

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WIRELESS etc...

Program launched to help improve transit safety

Calgary Transit is launching its new program "Transit Watch" today to further enhance safety by encouraging riders to keep transit safe by being aware of their surroundings. METRO CALGARY









City club owner Paul Vickers applauds the result of the Calgary Police Service's Violent Crime Suppression team, saying it's made a noticeable difference at his clubs.

Crime fighting success

KRISTA SYLVESTER krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

The city's crime suppression team was built to keep the bad guys out of bars and so far it's working very well, according to a local club magnate.

Paul Vickers, owner of several high profile bars and clubs in Calgary, said since the city's police force dedicated a specialized team to the city's night time hot spots a month ago, he has already seen a huge difference.

"I think this program has been a major deterrent to gangsters, drug dealers, bad guys, whatever you want to call them, from coming into bars," Vickers said. "I say it's already been a huge success."

Vickers directly credits the newly formed Violent Crime Suppression team with the decrease of gang members causing problems in bars.

"I think these guys just rather not risk the confrontation and embarrassment of getting kicked out of a bar so they are avoiding it all together."

District 1 Staff Sgt. Nina Vaughan said the team has also found the new program to be successful.

"Things are going really well," she added.

CBE has a surplus of almost \$2M

BOARD Enrolments may be down, but the Calgary Board of Education still pulled out a nearly \$2 million surplus over the last school year.

While the system had nearly 970 fewer students, the CBE recently announced a \$1.9 million operating surplus from their \$937.7 million budget and revenues were up by \$70.6 million from the year prior, helping to offset escalating costs.

The current economic collapse has board members concerned for the future, though, as the reins may be tightened on government spending.

METRO CALGARY

Man arrested in murder case

KUFLOM Calgary police have a man in the hot seat in connection to the mid-August murder of Efrem Kuflom.

No charges have been laid and police aren't releasing the name of the man, who was arrested in Lethbridge Wednesday.

On Aug. 18 around 11:30 a.m. Kuflom was found shot dead in his car, which crashed into a schoolyard fence on 11 Street SW.

METRO CALGARY

News in brief

FOOD DRIVE Mayor Dave Bronconnier kicked off the 20th annual Christmas Food Drive for the Calgary Food Bank yesterday morning at the South Cen-

tre Safeway. Along with various media sponsors, Bronconnier darted through the aisles stuffing his grocery cart to help build the initial donation. The drive runs through December and donations can be made at all Safeway stores, schools, EMS stations and the city hall atrium. METRO CALGARY



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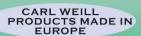
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Drive safe and be merry Calgary police in conjunction with Big Rock Brewery and Associated Cabs unveiled their Designate a Driver holiday campaign today, encouraging people to arrange a safe ride home. METRO CALGARY



Albi Sole's research indicates that post-secondary educated men between the ages of 25 to 29 are the most likely to be at risk of an avalanche.

Assessing avalanche risk

Women may help men survive, study finds

Contrary to popular belief, men do listen to women.

Possibly painful to admit, but it's also saving lives in the back country as being accompanied by a woman decreases a man's risk of being caught in an avalanche by 2½ times, according to new University of Calgary research.

"Women are more generally risk aversive than men and so I think their voices are being heard," said university avalanche public awareness co-ordinator Albi Sole, who just compiled his master's degree research profiling those at the highest risk for falling victim to an avalanche after interviewing 447 skiers. His findings showed young professional men between 25 and 29 years old who make about \$10,000 more than the provincial average are most likely to be involved in avalanche incidents.

Having a woman with you reduces the risk, having

Thrill, meet risk

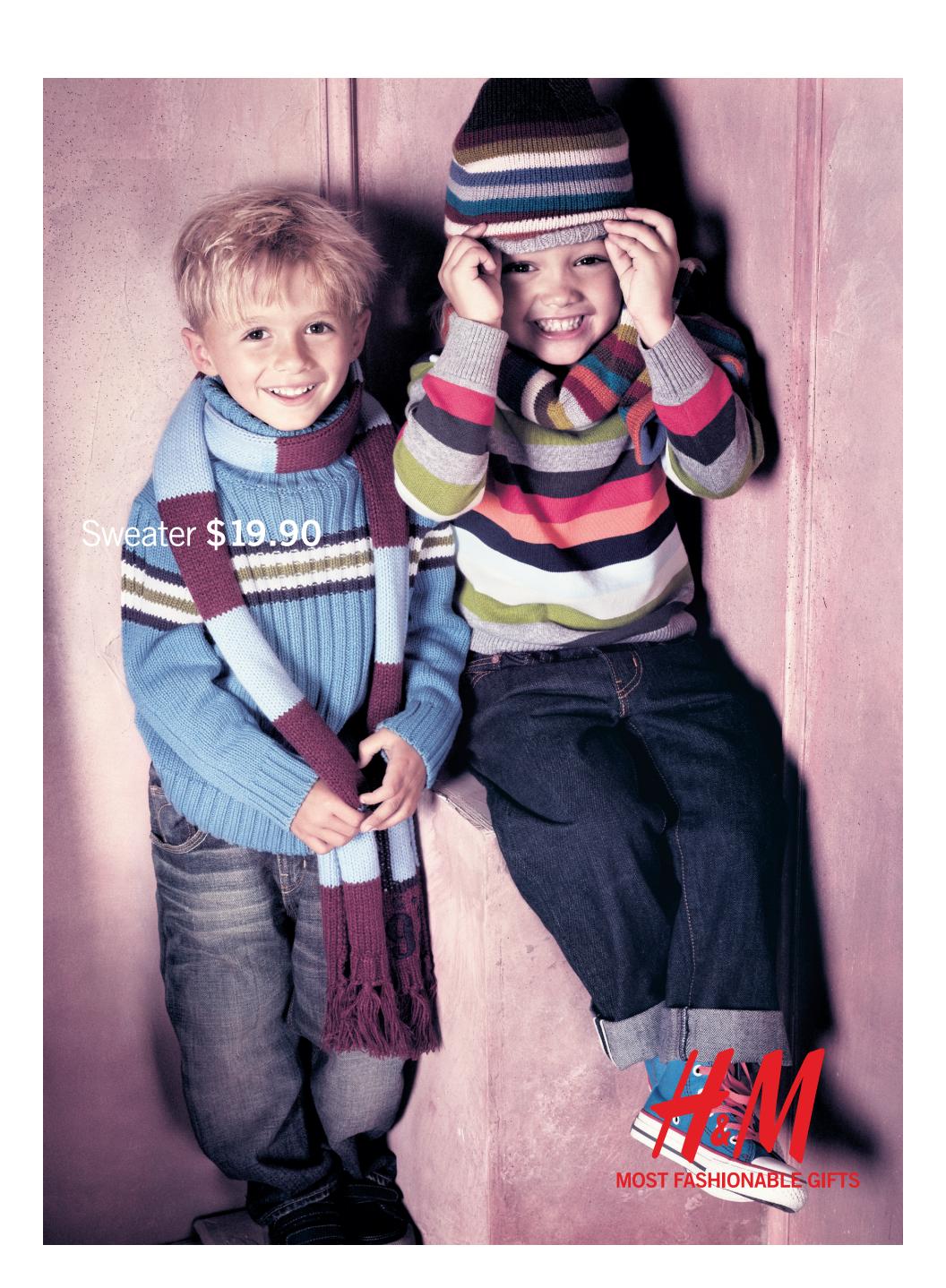
 Thrill-seekers are seven times more likely to find themselves in an avalanche than those seeking sheer physical or psychological enjoyment, Albi Sole said, adding the overall risk is widely overstated.

avalanche training doesn't, said Sole, though adamant training may save your life. NEIL MACKINNON/METRO CALGARY



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Ontario look to curb cigarillo use

Ontario MPPs yesterday pushed a rare bipartisan effort to curb easily accessible small cigars that are imported from the U.S. and India, and cost between \$1 and \$1.25 a piece. The private members bill says the candy-flavoured cigars target youth. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada



Do-not-call list complaints pile up

Thousands of Canadians have called the CRTC to complain about its newly launched do-not-call list, with some saying they are receiving more calls than ever after having registered with the service. The do-not-call list allows Canadians to add their phone numbers — both landline and wireless — to a database that is circulated to telemarketers. A telemarketer that calls a number on the list is liable for a fine up to \$15,000.

Tories face backlash over plan

A political standoff that could spark an election has erupted as opposition politicians rejected a Conservative fiscal package that delays help for the struggling economy and proposes to eliminate public funding for political

Liberals, New Democrats and the Bloc Québécois united in opposition yesterday to what they called a "mean-spirited" Conservative plan that also includes a clampdown on MPs' pay and a ban on strikes by federal government workers for two

Last night, a sense of urgency prevailed as embold-



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, left, shakes hands with Prime Minister Stephen Harper after delivering the government's fiscal update in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

ened opposition politicians ing a coalition govern-

openly mused about form- ment. NDP Leader Jack Lay-

couver so he could be in Ottawa today to talk strategy with other opposition leaders.

Barring a compromise, the minority Conservatives could be toppled in a confidence vote on Monday night, opening the way to a change of government or a snap election less than two months after the Oct. 14 vote. Opposition MPs said they'll decide their next steps after seeing the legislation that will accompany the fiscal update. The politicians will get their first peek at that today, a vote scheduled with Monday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canadian actor hurt in attacks

MUMBAI Actor Michael al actor travelled to India Rudder has spent decades on a spiritual journey in search of peace and serenity, so his close friends say it's horribly ironic that he would be shot three times Michael Rudder

by terrorists on a meditation trip to India.

The 58-year-old Genie award-nominated Montre

with a group from the U.S.-based Synchronicity Foundation for a retreat at the upscale Oberoi

One other Canadian was wounded in the attacks. Unconfirmed reports say as

many as six other Canadians are unaccounted for.

Hotel.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

HAWKING Internationally renowned physicist Stephen Hawking has accepted a post of distinguished research chair at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Ont.

COLLAPSE The Quebec government says it sent a memo two years ago to building owners, warning of the potential for the same type of parking lot collapse that killed a Montreal man Wednesday. **REUTERS**



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10 canada

Pickton family lose appeal over farm

The family of Robert Pickton has lost a legal bid to change the zoning of the pig farm in Port Coquitlam, B.C., where Pickton killed six women. The family had asked the Supreme Court of British Columbia to review a decision that reclassified the land as residential, significantly increasing property taxes. CBC NEWS ONLINE

Big spender MPs targeted

The federal government will crack down on highflying ministers, aides and public servants who spend too much taxpayer money on trips and hospitality.

"We are directing government ministers and deputy ministers from every single department and agency of the government to rein in their spending on travel, hospitality, conferences, exchanges and professional services," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said in his economic update yester-

Flaherty said "there will be no free ride for anyone else in government," and added that instructions are

Biggest spenders

• This plan comes on the heels of an investigation published last weekend that detailed numerous examples of ministers travelling overseas at firstclass prices in large entourages.

going out to all government departments to save money managing spending.

The investigation analyzed a database of 60,000 travel records over the past four years and found that some federal travellers had trouble getting to London, England for under \$6,000, even though economy

 Former agriculture minister Chuck Strahl spent \$84,000 on flight and accommodations himself and eight aides to attend WTO talks. Environment minister John Baird spent \$61,000 on a trip to the UN.

seats were available for \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Just before the story was published, the government introduced rules limiting to two the number of political aides with whom a minister can travel.

The findings data on travel expenses was a stark contrast to the frugal image of the Stephen Harper

Conservatives, who, when in opposition, frequently criticized the Liberal government over high expens-

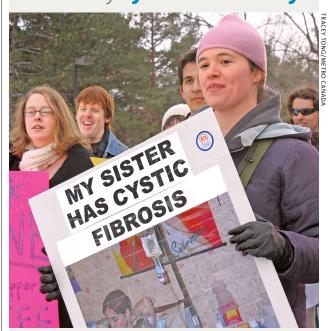
Flaherty's name also turned up in the investigation. Last year, 17 government officials flew from Ottawa to Toronto to meet Flaherty.

The next day, Flaherty flew to Ottawa, prompting the investigation to ask the minister why the 17 officials did not just wait for him to be in Ottawa.

Flaherty's spokesperson said it was a rare occurrence and they would limit this behaviour to "insure value for taxpayers.'

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Controversy Cystic fibrosis rally



Carleton University student Marissa Hoftiezer, 24, participated in an on-campus fundraiser for the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Ottawa yesterday. Hoftiezer, whose sister, Becky, 19, has CF, was horrified when a school group announced earlier this week that a major fundraiser for CF, Shinerama, was being cut.

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News in brief

CRIME The judge in the David Frost trial is set to deliver his verdict today after allegations that the former hockey coach organized group sex with his young players and their

girlfriends. Frost was charged on four counts of sexual exploitation relating to his time as a coach of the Quinte Hawks team in 1996 and 1997.

METRO NEWS SERVICES





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12 canada

Giant Mine explosion widows get their day in court

The widows of nine miners who were killed in the 1992 Giant Mine explosion near Yellowknife will make their case for compensation before Canada's highest court. The Supreme Court of Canada announced yesterday that it will hear an appeal from the widows. CBC NEWS ONLINE



Karen Peterson steps aboard one of the free hop-on hop-off trolleys that take shoppers to businesses in Vancouver.

A new way to go shopping

Trolley service will help customers get to the stores

KRISTEN THOMPSON Metro Canada

To give hard-hit businesses a leg-up, the Canada Line in Vancouver is running a free hop-on

hop-off Holiday Shopping Trolley along the construction route.

Starting today and on each Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Dec. 21, the trolley — adorned with holiday decorations - will

pick up and drop off shoppers at seven locations along the Canada Line

Karen Peterson, independent project director on Cambie Street, told for the busi-

ness liaison "We know it's program of Canada **going to be a tough** kept Line project, said this lets shoppers find overall and we unique gifts thought we'd find a sup-lagal fun way to bring porting local lots of people and of come shop the Line.

Many the businesses along the (And) you can avoid have traffic and parking." strug- Karen Peterson been gling financially because

construction of the line

Street filed a lawsuit

against the Canada Line asking for compensation for loss of revenue.

Giriraj Gautam, owns a convenience store

> Metro year that his business was afloat because his landlord lowered his rent.

"We know it's going to be a tough year for merchants overall thought we'd find a fun way to bring lots of people and come

shop the Line," Peterson said. "(And) you can avoid traffic and parking."

The trolleys stop every 25 minutes in several loca-

has slowed or diverted traf-On Nov. 12, several merchants along Cambie

Ottawa man charged for child pornography

charged a 27-year-old Ottawa man with child pornography-related offences after a search at a south end address.

After a month-long investigation, the Ottawa Police High Tech Crime/Child Internet Exploitation Unit executed a search warrant

They seized two computers and various CDs and

Joel John Peralta, 27, faces charges of making available and possession of child pornography. He appeared in court yesterday for a show cause hearing. **METRO OTTAWA**



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Weekend, November 28-30, 2008 8-year-old crashes his teacher's car

An eight-year-old German schoolboy who wanted to complain to his mother about being sent out of class took his teacher's car and crashed it, police said. The boy pinched the 40-year-old teacher's car key when she was not looking and managed to start up her compact car, accelerating and putting the vehicle into first gear. REUTERS

World



Subways to be used as housing

Ten Beijing subway trains that were phased out ahead of the Olympics will be used as makeshift housing over the winter for around 1,200 victims of May's devastating earthquake, local media said yesterday. A total of 60 subway cars are being retrofitted with bunk beds to house residents of Guangyuan, Sichuan province, said the Beijing Youth Daily.

The lucky ones

14

Survivors tell their stories

• Archit Guha is counting his blessings.

The Mumbai student and a group of his pals had planned on going to the Leopold Cafe Wednesday night for a friend's birthday. Instead, they decided to go on Saturday night.

"As luck would have it, we decided not to go out," Guha, 18, said yesterday. "It's spine-chilling."

Guha says the most disturbing aspect of the terrorist attacks was the apparent youth of many of the attack-

 Jaspreet Singh's friend, Karan Katyal, a chef at the Oberoi Hotel, had just narrowly escaped death.

According to Singh, Katyal was in the kitchen when he heard the first gunshots. When he came out to check what was happening, the gunmen turned weapons Katyal's way.

"He was pulled back in the nick of time and somehow managed to avoid getting shot," Singh related. "He ran to the back and waited four hours before being rescued."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

India looks for answers

India remains on high alert today as investigators, joined by terrorism experts from around the world, strive to learn more about the shadowy group of terrorists who attacked a series of symbolic, highprofile targets in the country's financial capital of Mumbai.

The gunmen, identified by officials as suspected Muslim militants, attacked five-star hotels the Taj Mahal and Trident-Oberoi, along with the headquarters of an ultra-orthodox Jewish outreach group, Chabad Lubavitch, and a railway station.

Several terrorists were captured alive, according to Indian officials.

India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh blamed "external" forces — code for Pakistani militants for the violence.

But Pakistan's government, which condemned the attacks, warned India against jumping to conclusions about who was responsible.



Schoolchildren hold candles during a vigil held in memory of the victims of Wednesday's shootings in Mumbai, in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad yesterday.

Survivors and witnesses say the gunmen went around specifically looking for American and British citizens in the attacks, which at last word claimed 121 lives and left 279 injured, including several Canadians.

"They have AK-47s and grenades," said local military commander Maj. Gen. R.K. Hooda. "They have bags full of grenades and have come fully pre-

During the day, commandoes brought hostages, trapped guests and corpses out of the hotels in small groups while fires erupted periodically and firefighters braved bullets to battle the flames.

Last night a team of FBI bomb and forensics experts left Los Angeles for Mumbai to help with the investigation, even as analysts

Expert's opinion

• Tom Quiggin, a Canadian expert in jihad who has studied terrorism in India, said he would "bet a year's pay" the terrorists belong to the Indian Mujahideen, an offshoot of the outlawed Students Islamic Movement of India.

around the world were debating whether the gunmen - described as young and ordinary - could have been linked to al-Qaida.

"It's clear that it is al-Qaida style," said Rohan Gunaratna of the International Center for Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore and author of the book Inside Al-Qaida.

"Yesterday's attack is a watershed because, for the first time, the terrorists deliberately attacked international targets," Gunaratna said.

Leaked notes cause scandal

SARKOZY Czech weekly Reflex yesterday published leaked notes from a meeting between French President Nicolas Sarkozy and the Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolanek in Paris on 31 October.

According to the magazine, Sarkozy said: "Do you know what it means to be alone against all Arabs? To have them on the phone? Arabs are terrible, Î assure you."

The whole scandal could be caused by mistranslation. The French meaning of the sentence 'ils sont terrible' does not have the same negative meaning as in Czech, and translates as something more like 'they are quite something.'

Franck Louvier, Sarkozy's press officer, said to Metro:

"I knew the story, it's a

complete lie.' METRO WORLD **NEWS**

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16 world

Singapore men jailed after kangaroo shirts get judges hopping mad

Three Singaporeans were jailed yesterday after being charged with contempt of court for showing up at Singapore's Supreme Court wearing T-shirts depicting kangaroos in judges robes. The men were each handed 15 days' imprisonment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

U.S. soldier seeking asylum in Germany

A U.S. soldier who deserted his unit to avoid returning to Iraq has applied for asylum in Germany, saying the Iraq war was illegal and that he could not support the "heinous acts" taking place.

Andre Shepherd, 31, who served in Iraq between September 2004 and February 2005 as an Apache helicopter mechanic in the 412th Aviation Support Battalion, has been living in Germany since deserting last year.

"I began to feel ashamed of what I was doing."

Andre Shepherd

"When I read and heard about people being ripped to shreds from machine guns or being blown to bits by the Hellfire missiles I began to feel ashamed about what I was doing," Shepherd told a Frankfurt news conference.

According to U.S. law,

a time of war can face the death penalty.

The soldier said he was particularly hopeful he would be granted asylum in Germany, a staunch opponent of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Shepherd, who enlisted in January 2004, is only the second U.S. soldier to have applied to Germany for asylum in a similar situation. The earlier application was later withdrawn.

News in brief

SCAM China has executed the leader of a bogus scheme for breeding ants to make aphrodisiacs that conned investors out of 3 billion yuan (\$439 million), the country's official news agency said yesterday. Wang Zhendong was executed on Wednesday. Wang promised investors in the fictitious project returns of 35 to 60 per cent, Xinhua said. The ants were to be used for making liquor, herbal remedies and aphrodisiacs.

IRAN A man who blinded a

woman with acid after she spurned his marriage proposals will also be blinded with acid under Iran's Islamic law. The ruling was made on Wednesday based on the system of "qisas" or fair retribution. REUTERS

Jordan Group wedding



A couple dance during a mass wedding in Amman yesterday. Four pairs of physically disabled couples celebrated their wedding in a ceremony organized by the Jordanian Society for People with Special Needs.

Congolese rebels sieze border town

UGANDA Congolese Tutsi rebels took control of the town of Ishasha on Congo's border with Uganda, the U.N. said yesterday. The refugee agency UNHCR said 13,000 Congolese refugees, 10,000 of them alone, had yesterday crossed the border at and around Ishasha in 48 hours. Most had walked for several days to escape. **REUTERS**

Vacations

Two dead in Taliban strike

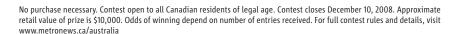
HELMAND Two British sol- a bitter and tragic blow to diers were killed in a Taliban attack in southern Afghanistan yesterday, the Ministry of Defence said.

The two Royal Marines were on foot patrol in Helmand province, a volatile region of Afghanistan, when they came under attack from a group of insur-

"The loss of these two Royal Marines has come as everyone in Task Force Helmand," military spokesman said in a statement.

The deaths raise the number of British troops killed in the conflict since it began in late 2001 to at least 128, according to Ministry of Defence figures. Britain has around 8,300 troops based in Afghanistan.





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World's oldest person dies at 115

The world's oldest person, Indiana native Edna Parker, died on Wednesday at the age of 115 years, 220 days. The oldest living person is now 115-year-old Maria de Jesus of Portugal, who was born on Sept. 10, 1893, according to the Gerontology Research Group. REUTERS

Suspected Kosovo bombers freed

Three German intelligence agents arrested in Kosovo on suspicion of throwing explosives at an EU office will be released and will return home today, a German newspaper said.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung, citing government officials in Pristina, said in an early issue of its Friday edition that the

three would be released for lack of evidence.

Earlier, Thomas Oppermann, who chairs the German parliamentary committee overseeing intelligence operations, said the government had informed the committee the three worked for Germany's BND intelligence agency. He declined to say what

Independence

 Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in February and is recognized by more than 50 countries, including Germany.

their assignment had been. The explosive charge was thrown on Nov. 14 at

the International Civilian Office, the office of EU Special Representative Pieter Feith, who oversees Kosovo's governance. It caused only minor damage.

"We don't have any indication that the three German officials in Kosovo had any connection to the attack," said Oppermann.

News in brief

GAY MARRIAGE Over the next three years about 32,200 same-sex couples will travel to marry in Massachusetts, a

study predicts. That would translate into 330 jobs and a \$111 million boost to the state's economy.



Thanksgiving Out of this world



Space Shuttle Endeavour astronauts Don Pettit, left, and Stephen Bowen make a Thanksgiving toast aboard the International Space Station yesterday.

Iran peace talks possible: VP

MASHAIE Iran would welcome talks between President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and U.S. president-elect Barack Obama, the country's vice president said in an interview with Japan's Kyodo news agency

Vice President Esfandiar Rahim Mashaie said in the interview that any such meeting must be held in an open manner and its contents made public.

Mashaie told Kyodo the Iranian president had said "direct diplomacy is the best way to peace," but added that Obama must distance himself from Washington's stance so far in order to create change.

Iran has repeatedly refused to bow to Western pressure to halt its nuclear program, which many fear is aimed at making nuclear weapons.

Infants test subjects for malaria shot

HEALTH A trial for a new malaria vaccine involving 16,000 children in seven African countries is putting young ones on the front lines. Because babies are the chief victims of malaria, they must be the among the test subjects, requiring mothers to volunteer their kids. Most moms were swayed by the improved health care their babies would receive.







18world

Garcia blames Mexican drug cartels for Peru violence

Peruvian President Alan Garcia yesterday blamed his country's recent rash of drug-related violence on powerful Mexican drug cartels that are making inroads and building criminal alliances in Peru. REUTERS

Russia's Medvedev visits Cuba Turkey, crab, for U.S. troops'

Moscow seeking beneficial deals across Latin America

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev held talks with former Cold War ally Cuba yesterday as a resurgent Moscow flexed its muscle in Latin America by seeking energy, military and trade deals across the

Medvedev arrived in Havana from OPEC-member Venezuela, where he and U.S. foe President Hugo Chavez discussed closer cooperation, including on oil and nuclear energy, and

"Raul (Castro) and (Dmitry) Medvedev agreed on the importance of continuing to increase ties in different areas, particularly the area of economics."

Cuba's state-run television

Russian and Venezuelan warships conducted exercises in the Caribbean.

Russia is likely to commit to rebuilding its alliance with Cuba, abandoned after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Russian oil companies want to drill offshore and Russia's military has talked about airspace defence co-operation with Havana.

Cuban President Raul

Castro and the Russian leader talked about the economic crisis and investment in the Communistrun island during their meeting.

"Raul and Medvedev agreed on the importance of continuing to increase ties in different areas, particularly the area of economics," Cuba's state-run television reported without giving any further de-

REUTERS

Thanksgiving in Afghanistan

MEAL At a canteen inside a U.S. Army Forward Operating Base, hundreds of soldiers stood patiently in line for a traditional Thanksgiving meal to be eaten at tables decorated with paper turkeys.

They tucked in under the stare of statues of 17thcentury pilgrims, which kneel beside a carefully arranged banquet of fruit, sweet potato pie, sponge cake, crab and tubs of ice cream.

At FOB Gardez, district platoon leader Xavier Bur-

"It's definitely not home but it still feels home."

Xavier Burrell

rell, 29, helped serve turkey, roast beef, greens and stuffing.

"It's definitely not home but it still feels home. You're with all the family you've been with for the past eight months," said Burrell, who received a promotion to first lieutenant yesterday. REUTERS

News in brief

NATO Russia welcomes a decision by the U.S. government to back away from granting fasttrack NATO membership to ex-Soviet republics Georgia and Ukraine at the alliance's summit later this month, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said yesterday.

AMAZON Brazil's environment minister led a crackdown on illegal timber businesses in the Amazon yesterday after loggers ransacked government offices. REUTERS

Mexico's Calderon says half of tested police unqualified

LAW Mexican President Felipe Calderon, locked in a war with violent drug cartels, said yesterday that half of the police recently tested are unqualified to do their jobs.

Calderon, in a written response to questions from legislators, said 49 per cent of 56,000 local, state and federal cops evaluated this year scored "not recommendable."

Mexico's poorly trained and underpaid police are widely viewed as incompetent, and rampant corruphampered tion has campaign Calderon's against wealthy drug smuggling gangs.

Calderon's war on drugs has fanned an escalation of violence that has killed more than 4,300 people this year.

REUTERS

Colombia Fishing while flooded



A man fishes on a flooded street in Juanchito, near the city of Cali, yesterday. Colombia is hit by floods throughout the country every year. This year heavy rains have caused at least 44 deaths and left more than 550,000 homeless.

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Comment & Views

Comment

What world in 2009?

The (Economist's The World In) 2008 issue

OmniVision



ack before too glossy annual exercise in much work and parenting-inprognostication, and this year's edition — the authoritatively titled The duced penury re-duced both free World In 2009 — hit the time and spare cash, I used to read at least 40 maganewsstands this week. Like zines a month. Everything from fluffy lifestyle mags to foreign policy journals, they were the meat of my regular reading, much more so than newspapers. These days, there's a scant few I pick up regularly, and most of these end up barely scanned before ending up in a bin in the living room, waiting for those leisurely weekends that won't come until my daughters are in college. One of the few remain-

its predecessors, it's thick with essays, all confidently delivered, telling us to expect more bad economic news in the year to come, with global workforces shrinking with age, Iran edging ever closer to a nuclear bomb, and luxury brands taking a beating. This year's special section is devoted to the environment; last year's was focused on China. It'll get picked at for the next month or so, after which

it'll end up on a shelf, next

to The World In 2008,

predicted that 'record rates of mortgage defaults and repossessions will be the most visible symbol of a deepening housing bust,' an oraculation that can be faulted not so much for its accuracy as its timidity.

> I hold on to these issues as keepsakes of the conventional wisdom, collected and codified on the eve of arbitrary the largely turnover of another calendar year, since they often prove to be poor almanacs for the year to come. According to The World In 2008 for instance, Hillary Clinton was the likely bet to lead the Democrats into the White House, since "both Mr. Obama and Mr. Edwards come across as too lightweight." Time, of course, may prove if even a wrong prediction might still contain a kernel of insight.

2007, 2006 and so on.

The 2008 issue predicted that "record rates of mortgage defaults and reposses-

ble symbol of a deepening housing bust," an oraculation that can be faulted not so much for its accuracy as its timidity. The 2004 issue contained an optimistic note on Paul Martin's imminent move into the Prime Minister's office, predicting that his tenure in office would benefit from "political continuity; balanced budgets; strong economic growth: where's the catch?" It seems so long ago now.

There's barely a mention of terrorism in The World In 2001, which set the tone for that year with an editorial essay summing up the economic bounty we could expect in the year to come: "Nerve-wracking it may be, but this is surely a golden age," wrote Clive Crook, the magazine's deputy editor. Nerve-wracking it was - little did you know, Mr.

Rick McGinnis writes about music,



Letters

Alderman's \$25-million 'pet project' unnecessary

Re: "Bridges may warrant another reconsideration."

What part of 'no' doesn't Alderman Bob Hawkesworth understand? This is getting to be a good example of stubborn politicians trying to forcibly push their agenda on taxpayers.

There is absolutely no need for a \$25-million bridge project that benefits a small number of people, and Wayne Cao is on the right track.

I hope the province gets involved. It's not as if there are no alternate routes! This is another case of a unilaterally steamrolled pet project being rammed down taxpayers' throats. Voters will have a long memory about Hawkesworth and other like-minded city politicians when the next election comes around.

> HARRY S. ANCHAN, **CALGARY**

Hells Angels prosecutions are a human-rights issue

The Hell Angels motorcycle club is not a criminal organization and deserve the same rights as any other person.

In March this year, a landmark ruling by a B.C. judge said that "a full-patch Hells Angels member and two of his associates are not members of a criminal organization." The trial was a key test of new "federal antigang legislation," and if the Hells Angels were deemed a criminal organization, police would have been able to seize their assets.

A recent decision in Alberta has some legal experts saying publicly that it could eventually place limits on the way police try to control the movement of "biker gangs."

I maintain that these cases revolve around fundamental rights that all citizens are entitled to, whether they drive motorcycles or not.

> WILLIAM PERRY. VICTORIA, B.C.

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CFB Currie needs a vision of valour



ing titles I pick up regular-

ly is The Economist's

The legacy of CFB Currie Barracks? It should symbolize valour. But the owner of this military base will soon boot out a delightful host of tenants. Besides the muchloved Calgary Farmer's market, film types and theatre troupes must also go. Currie tenants Morpheus, Storybook and Front Row say they've accepted their fate. At lease end, they envision moving to a new cultural centre, someplace, somewhere. But why can't it just be Currie?

CFB Calgary is a federal military base close to

downtown. It's unusual; over 750 acres it has historic buildings, rolling grounds, and a rare expanse of inner city land that can welcome spectacles like Cirque du Soleil. It is owned by Canada Lands Co., a federal agency with a profit mandate, and no Albertans on its board.

The unthinkable has happened. While waiting to get its ducks in order to bring in expensive suburbs, offices and fancypants stores, Canada Lands unwittingly did something else: it educated us. It gave us a taste of just what could be. Now, we uppity citizens want to stay. We revelled in this makeshift cultural centre, found a place to mingle, buy good food, be entertained. We cannot act as if it all never happened.

It is true we could use

"We cannot lose the Currie Barracks to housing, not even so-called 'green housing.'"

more housing, and Canada Lands did a wonderful job with Garrison Woods. It fought city officials successfully to narrow the streets, reduce speeding and create community. But its housing is expensive for most Calgarians. And we humans are not commercial animals alone.

Consider San Diego's Balboa Park. At 843 acres, it's not much bigger than CFB Currie. Over a century ago, city council set aside this hilltop land, which has free parking and great public transit service. People from the world over come to visit the 15 museums, together with the San Diego Zoo. Walking the lovely grounds is truly sublime. By contrast, our city council gives Canada Lands housing and retail permits. Proposed street names include Victoria Cross, Mary Dover, Burma Star, Dieppe and Valour.

True valour demands preserving CFB Currie for our future. Who has the guts, courage, real true valour, for a public vision?

We cannot lose the Currie Barracks to housing, not even so-called "green housing." So, city council should do the right thing. It should expropriate Currie Barracks in the public good, steer the West LRT line there, and do us uppity citizens right.

Royal College, serves on her community association board, and is proud mom to two boys.

Two-for-one car promo has arrived

Burlington, Ont., Hyundai is offering a minivan at full price, plus a subcompact car for free today and Saturday to spur auto sales before they plunge as expected. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Hungry U.S. retailers lure in Canadians with big sales

With U.S. consumers in a funk, retailers south of the border have stepped up efforts to lure Canadians into their stores and websites today for "Black Friday," the busiest shopping days on the American calendar.

But they could be in for a tough fight. Canadian retailers are striking back with deeper discounts, longer store hours and new catchphrases such as The Brick's "Red Day," to instil thoughts of U.S.-style Thanksgiving savings in consumers' minds.

"Maybe we can get some Canadians to come in and spend some money."

Darrel Ryce

Some Canadian retailers, such as Sears, are even going so far as to say they're offering Boxing Day-style savings this weekend.

Darrel Ryce with The NPD Group has noticed Canadian retailers making an effort to hold onto their customers. "I think a lot of it has to do with getting the dollar out of that person's wallet now, before they spend it somewhere else."

On the U.S. side, where retail sales have fallen dramatically in recent months, mall owners were offering free \$20 U.S. gift certificates, or advertising U.S. Thanksgiving deals in Canadian newspapers.

"If Americans are not going to spend as much, maybe we can get some Canadians to come in a spend some money," Ryce

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Loblaws to charge for plastic bags

GROCERY Loblaw Co., Canada's biggest supermarket chain, said yesterday that it will start charging customers a fee for every plastic shopping bag they use.

The company, with more than 1,000 grocery stores across Canada, said it would begin charging customers five cents a bag on April 22, 2009, which is Earth Day.

The company said it would also encourage cus-

"We believe this ... represents the next natural step forward as we continue to ... respond to Canadians' desire."

Galen Weston

tomers to use alternatives to plastic bags and enhance its offer of affordable reusable bag options.

Loblaw currently offers reusable fabric bags to its customers for a small fee.

"We believe this ... represents the next natural step forward as we continue to acknowledge and respond to Canadians' desire to support environmental initiatives," Galen Weston, Loblaw executive chairman, said in a release.

REUTERS

In **brief**

MERGER With the \$52-billion US deal to buy BCE stalled, investors again raised the idea of merging Bell Canada with Telus Corp.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LAYOFFS The Canadian unit of Citigroup is cutting 12 investment-banking jobs as the New York-based company sheds thousands of jobs worldwide.

MARKETS Oil fell to around \$53 US a barrel yesterday as a holiday weekend in the United States and an upcoming OPEC consultative meeting limited trade. Oil fundamentals are weak, with U.S. crude stocks rising sharply and oil demand in the United States falling in September to its lowest level for any month in more than a decade.

CHINA Three months after opening the world's second tallest skyscraper, Shanghai is about to start construction of an even taller building, defying slumping property values across the country. Work on the 632-metre Shanghai Tower is expected to be completed in 2014.

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Attacks postpone cricket matches

International cricket in India will go into recess for at least two weeks in the wake of terror attacks in Mumbai. England and India officials agreed in an emergency meeting yesterday to postpone the last two matches of their international series. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



'We're talking about practice, man'

yesterday, and will be fined by the team, coach Michael Curry said. In May 2002, the then-Philadelphia 76er Iverson launched into a famous rant during a news conference, responding to criticism he had taken for missing several practices. Curry also added Iverson will not start tonight against Milwaukee.

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Maciocia moves to Esks front office

CFL The Edmonton Eskimos announced yesterday that Danny Maciocia has stepped down as the team's head coach and will assume the duties of general manager and director of football operations.

Maciocia was hired as the team's offensive co-ordinator in 2002 and was named head coach in December of 2004. In his first season as head coach, Maciocia led the Eskimos to a Grey Cup championship in 2005.

"I am very excited about this opportunity," said Maciocia. "I'm probably just as excited as I was December 4, 2004 when I was named head coach ... I feel like it's time to move to the next phase of my football career."

Burke to officially join Leafs

NHL Brian Burke has signed a contract with the Maple Leafs that will have the former Anaheim GM take over as Toronto's president and general manager.

The deal will reportedly pay Burke US\$18 million over six years.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



on PC products in-store

Cammalleri carries Flames

NHL RESULT

Flames 4 Canucks 3



LAURENCE HEINEN

THE SKINNY: Curtis Glencross scored the game winner with 6:31 to go in the final frame, while Mike Cammalleri notched his first NHL hat trick to lead the Flames to their first win over the Canucks in three tries this sea-

THE BANK SHOT: For the second straight game, Cammalleri notched Calgary's first goal as he banked a shot off Sami Salo's skate during a power play at 8:11 of the opening frame. Up to that point, the Flames had

gone 0-for-13 with the man advantage against the Canucks this year.

THE QUOTE: "Sometimes you iust throw it at the net and you get a little lucky," Cammalleri told Rogers Sportsnet in regards to his 100th career goal.

STREAK BUSTERS: Calgary ended Vancouver's streak of recording at least one point in 10 straight games, during which time the Canucks compiled an 8-0-2 record.

THE INEVITABLE: Jarome Iginla recorded two assists for his first points this season against Vancouver.

DOUBLE TROUBLE: Daniel Sedin extended his goal-scoring streak to five games, while twin brother Henrik recorded his 400th career point with the Canucks.



Curtis Glencross scores the game winner in the third period last night.

THE BOO-BOOS: The Flames played without forwards Wayne Primeau (lower body) and Dustin Boyd (upper body), who

were injured during Tuesday's 6-2 win over the L.A. Kings.

ACT II: The same two teams

will now make their way back to Calgary on Saturday for an 8 p.m. tilt (CBC, Fan 960) at the

Kobe more of a 'we-we' player these days

bscured by the fact that the Los Angeles Lakers have catapulted to a remarkable, NBA-best 12-1 start is Kobe Brvant's slump.

Yep, production by the Lakers' marquee player is down across the board. Yet the Lakers are winning, and usually by huge margins.

"Kobe seems to understand now that if it's not his night, he has to help the other guys play well," Lakers coach Phil Jackson told me yesterday. "He's become more of a we-we guy and less of a me-me guy.'

• Quarterback Michael Vick, completing his sentence for mistreating dogs, is keeping in first-rate shape



mally apply soon for reinstatement with the NFL and the Atlanta Falcons.

The Falcons, however, don't want him back and there's widespread speculation that, despite his exceptional talents, NFL clubs will stay away from him.

Which raises the question: Could Vick wind up in the CFL?

"Anyone who wants Michael better be prepared to face the dog lovers of America," Kansas City Chiefs general manager Carl Peterson said. "There'll be a lot of problems. People love their pets, and particularly from an NFL club. dogs. There'll be protests,

people expressing their thoughts even though he's served his time. And that goes for Canada, too." Although kicker San

dro DeAngelis is commanding lots of attention down south,

he's

telling everyone and anyone that he'll return to Calgary for his fifth

year with the Stampeders unless he is guaranteed a respectable signing bonus

For more on DeAngelis, check out my latest CFL www. Report at metronews.ca.

• The New York Yankees are strongly pursuing ex-Blue Jays second baseman Orlando Hudson and will trade Robinson

world

Cano if they sign the O-Dog. And

champion Philadelphia Phillies are about to re-sign 46-year-old pitcher Jamie

A new offer for megabucks has been made to NHL free agent Mats Sundin, who likely will narrow his list of possibilities to three teams next week. He's eyeing a January return. Besides Tampa Bay, clubs pursuing him include the Toronto Maple Leafs, Ottawa Senators, Vancouver Canucks, Montreal Canadiens, Philadelphia Flyers, Chicago Blackhawks, New York Rangers, New York Islanders and Anaheim Ducks.

And I only have one word about the Leafs' decision to hire the irascible Brian Burke as club bossman:

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Movies&Entertainment

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EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

I dream of Oscar

Pg 24



Metro's movie writers weigh in on the upcoming awards season for the top categories: Best actor, best actress, best director, best picture and a wild card — which some think may end up going to the late Heath Ledger.



metro

23

Actress finds herself in many rough and tough roles.



This music maestro's bringing R&B's roots back.



Jason Priestley finally fulfills his lifelong dream — almost.



Universal is in final negotiations to buy Richard Rapoza's matrimonial comedy Best Man-A-Thon, about a groom trying to decide which friend he should make his best man. REUTERS

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

And the nominees are ...

Metro takes a look at who deserves to win during the upcoming awards season

While most people are thinking about the holidays at this time of year, Hollywood is thinking abou statues and accolades.

The annual award season is about to kick off, with Golden Globe nominations being handed down in mid-December, and Oscar predictions already being made.

Metro asked its movie reviewers — Richard Crouse, Steve Gow, Chris Alexander and Rick McGinnis to weigh-in on who they think deserves props this year.

Best actress

CROUSE: Anne Hathaway's intense, unvarnished performance in Rachel Getting Married reveals the pain that lurks beneath the character's goth-like exterior. She's tough and fragile; someone who is able to live with past sins, but can't get over them.

ALEXANDER: Angelina Jolie for Changeling or Meryl Streep for Doubt. Good movies, and blistering performances in both films.

GOW: Anne Hathaway for Rachel Getting Married. Many are arguing that Hathaway's role as a recovering addict was way too celebrated to ignore. The only question is: Can she avoid being upstaged by Doubt's Meryl Streep.

MCGINNIS: If Kate Winslet gets nominated for both The Reader and Revolutionary Road, it's not hard to see how she won't blow past Keira Knightley or Nicole Kidman.

Best actor

CROUSE: In Frank Langella's hands Richard (Tricky



Metro's movie reviewers think Frank Langella's portrayal of Richard Nixon in Frost/Nixon, left, and Anne Hathaway in Rachel Getting Married, right, are both deserving of awards this year.

Dick) Nixon, one of the most vilified public figures of the last fifty years, becomes almost sympathetic in Frost/Nixon.

ALEXANDER: It needs to go to my favorite underdog, Mickey Rourke, in The Wrestler. Will it? Maybe ... Hollywood loves comebacks. By that same token, I hold a special place in my heart for Jean-Claude Van Damme in JCVD.

GOW: Frank Langella for Frost/Nixon. After winning the Tony Award for playing this role on Broadway, the 70-year-old screen legend is due to make his mark in cinema as well. Besides, with a film career that goes back 38 years, he's owed a statuette or

MCGINNIS: Playing gay is the way to go — just ask Tom Hanks — and Leonardo DiCaprio doesn't have a lot of love these days, so let's call it for Sean Penn in Milk.

Best director

CROUSE: Slumdog Millionaire is Danny Boyle's most complex movie yet, eneverything compassing from romance to action, comedy to anguish, treachery, greed and yes, even a musical number (stay through the credits). It's a wild ride featuring Boyle's hyper visual style, a pulsating musical score, and story elements that joyfully bind together Romeo and Juliet, Bollywood gangster pictures and a rowdy coming-of-age story.

ALEXANDER: Chris Nolan redefined the parameters of mainstream pulp cinema with The Dark Knight, but I also adore the great Darren Aronofsky for The Wrestler. He deserves every accolade he gets.

gow: Since only three films have won the best picture Oscar without their directors being nominated, it's a given Danny Boyle will get a nod.

MCGINNIS: If Clint Eastwood hadn't announced that he was retiring from acting, it might be Sam Mendes, but the Academy is a sentimental beast, and might golf clap him to a third best director statue for Gran Torino Changeling.

Best **picture**

CROUSE: WALL-E is the first art film for kids I have ever seen. The story of a lonely robot that inadvertently gives humankind a second chance is aimed at children but doesn't look like any other kid's movie you've seen. It's 2001: A Space Odyssey for chil-

ALEXANDER: The Dark Knight. Hands down. It works on almost every level and is the best American film of the year.

Gow: Slumdog Millionaire. This dark horse may surprise a few folks, but certainly not those who have seen it. Crowds have been going wild for it and if it can ride out the hype Slumdog may just sneak itself a few big fat awards.

MCGINNIS: Suburban angst? Period misery a la Mad Men? The stars of Titanic and the director of American Beauty? What doesn't Revolutionary Road have in its favour?

Wild card

CROUSE: (Best Supporting Actor) Heath Ledger's Joker in The Dark Knight is a super villain for the new millennium; a terrorist, more interested in creating chaos than in anything

ALEXANDER: (Best Score) I'm a soundtrack junkie and the Hans Zimmer/James Newton Howard's music for The Dark Knight was just plain brilliant. Speaking of Zimmer, his work in Kung Fu Panda was really beautiful ... my son

GOW: (Best Documentary) Man on Wire is about an acrobat who broke into the World Trade Center and traversed the top of the Twin Towers on a high wire in 1974. Sounds innocuous enough but believe me, it plays out like Ocean's Eleven. It could be the best movie of the year ... period.

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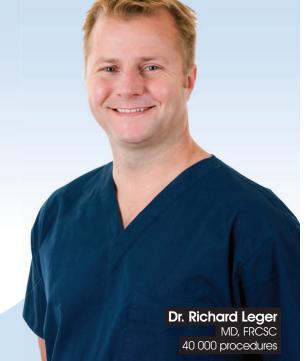
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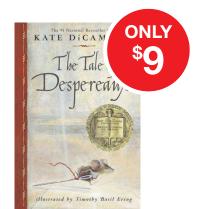
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Columbia to adapt The Swap

Columbia Pictures has brought aboard the writing team of Tim and Tom Mullen to adapt Antony Moore's comedy novel The Swap, about an out-of-shape comic book dealer, for the big screen. REUTERS

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

A walk down life's lane

Brick **Lane**

Director: Sarah Gavron Stars: Tannishtha Chatterjee, Satish Kaushik

Classification: 14A Rating: ###

RICK MCGINNIS

REVIEW As soon as the basic plot points of Brick Lane are laid out — a mother's suicide, an arranged marriage, life in chilly, racist London, oafish husband you start to mentally settle in for the usual, vaguely melodramatic ride that will likely take you those familiar places; a glimpse of freedom, a forbidden affair, an awful confrontation and, almost inevitably, a tragic ending.

Director Sarah Gavron's Brick Lane, based on the book by Monica Ali, hits its marks with clockwork precision as we get to know the unhappy life of Nazneen (Tannishtha Chatterjee) in the East End London neighbourhood that gives the movie its title.

An arranged marriage

Chanu Kaushik), a corpulent and self-important oaf, allowed her younger sister to remain home in Bangladesh, where she regales her older sister with tales of her many romances while Nazneen suffocates in their cramped council flat.

When her husband quits his job, she takes in piecework sewing, delivered weekly by handsome Karim, and an affair begins that makes her doubt her longstanding ambition to return home to her sister.

When 9/11 radicalizes Karim and makes her husband decide, after long delays, that a return home is imperative, she's suddenly forced to choose what she really wants from her life.

The film strives to transcend the usual clichés about Muslim and immigrant life, but the premise is so venerable that it never really manages this considerable feat — despite fine performances by Chatterjee and Kaushik in particular — until near the end, when it rouses an unexpected twist in its tail.

A glutton for punishment

STEVE GOW for Metro Canada

Not only does Julie Benz play yin to a serial killer's yang in the hit TV show Dexter, but she also starred opposite the most macho of manly men earlier this year in

Rambo. Now the softspoken actress is playing accomplice to yet another rugged he-man in Punisher: War Zone hitting theatres next Fri-

day.
"I seem to be getting vigilante themes surrounding me in my work," says Benz over the phone from New York recently. "It's because I'm so light in real life."

She may be joking but there isn't much to laugh about in Punisher: War Zone. Although it's the third cinematic adaptation of the vengeancefilled Marvel Comics character, Benz insists this is not a sequel — "It's just a very gritty urban retelling of the Punisher tale," she

Movie feature

"This is not just an action film, this is a film about a man whose family was completely annihilated," says Benz of the Punisher's origin. "He takes on vigilante justice and is still struggling with the loss of his family so there's real heart to the role of Frank Castle (The Punisher).'

In War Zone, an evil mob boss that Castle (Ray Stevenson of HBO's Rome) left horribly disfigured forms a vengeful crime syndicate. When a cop's wife (Benz) and her child are kidnapped by the foe, the unpredictable Punisher must reluctantly rescue the pair.

Even though you could look at (my) films and say genre-wise they're very related, the characters I play in them are very different," says Benz. "In The Punisher, my character's a lot tougher. She's a fighter and she's willing



Julie Benz plays the kidnapped wife of a police officer in the action film Punisher: War Zone.

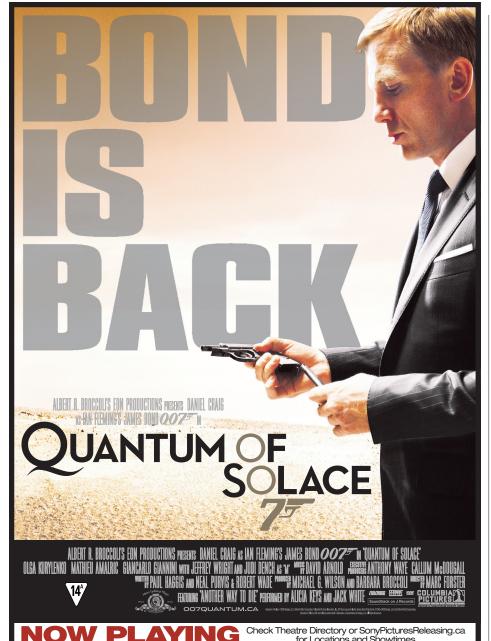
to do anything to save her daughter."

As if its legacy wasn't enough, Punisher is also gaining notice with its female filmmaker Lexi Alexander. Not only is the former kickboxing champion-turned-director making her big studio debut, but many say she's an unusual choice to helm such a violent movie.

"On many levels, (she's)

very appropriate. I mean, she is a martial artist so when it came to the fight sequences — these sequences look like street fighting, not stunt fighting," defends Benz.

"Also I think you needed a woman to wrangle all the (male) egos floating around — the fact that they knew she could kick their ass, they did what she said."





Director Patrick Reed revisits some of the countries where he worked as a member of Doctors Without Borders in the documentary Triage.

A dilemma worth your time

Triage: Dr. James Orbinski's Humanitarian Dilemma

Director: Patrick Reed Classification: STC Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕

KEVIN COURRIER for Metro Canada

While the term triage, which means the process of sorting victims to determine medical priority, is applicable to medicine, it's also an apt title to describe the stirring

and unsettling emotional journey of Dr. James

Triage: Dr. James Orbinski's Humanitarian Dilemma is a powerful tale of a man whose ideals get profoundly tested by the horrific genocides he witnessed and tried to confront in Africa.

Director Patrick Reed thankfully doesn't draw a picture of someone ennobled by his experience, but instead he intelligently presents a portrait of a conflicted, courageous man whose decency was deepened when he bore witness to the worst inhumanities.

The film follows Orbinski, a Nobel Peace Prizewinning doctor, as he returns to Somalia, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo to reflect on the meaning of the relief work he did there in the '90s with Doctors Without Borders.

As he revisits those former scenes of famine and genocide, Orbinski contemplates the true value of what he accomplished. He opens up irresolvable queries about what constifutes true humanitarianism as he examines his own churning emotions.

Film festival head resigns
In the wake of harsh industry criticism over his \$1,500 US donation to support the recently passed California ballot initiative Propo
MOVIES & Entertainment 27 sition 8, which bans gay marriage, Richard Raddon has resigned his post as director of the Los Angeles Film Festival. REUTERS

Fact, fiction in JCVD

CHRIS ALEXANDER

From the first time fans saw him administer a series of crushing roundhouse kicks to Bolo Yeung's solar plexus in 1988's Bloodsport, Jean Claude Van Damme — The Muscles from Brussels has been a cinematic martial arts icon.

Yet, in the past decade, problems with drugs and career missteps threatened to send him into B-level action hero obscurity for good.

Just when Van Damme thought his legacy would end in tears, French filmmaker Mabrouk El Mechri unleashes JCVD, a critically meta-fictional lauded, movie that sees Van Damme playing himself: An aging, tired, beaten down action hero whose star has sunk and who inexplicably finds himself at the centre of a bank heist/hostage situation.

Funny, stylish and raw, the film ultimately proves something many of Van Damme's naysayers have long refused to accept: The man can act.



Jean Claude Van Damme stars in meta-fictional film JCVD.

Movie **profile**

"I can't really do any more movies like I used to do," says the 48-year-old Van Damme, who's still in shockingly good physical shape. "With JCVD, I'm trying to give a real, emotionally honest performance and I think that that reality, that truth, makes the movie's action scenes resonate more."

While JCVD — it opens next week in Calgary does indeed function as an action film, Van Damme is often required to use his head, perhaps even more so than his fists and feet, to unravel the mess that surrounds him. And as the narrative progresses, the fine line between fact and fiction becomes blurred and

disorienting. "The broken guy you see in JCVD is me," says Van Damme. "But, then again, the focused guy you see in Bloodsport is also me. The film plays with that

Van Damme stares directly into the camera at one point in JCVD, addressing the audience and breaking down the fourth wall. It is unleashed in a single take, with a seemingly improvised monologue shows a man coming to terms with the myriad of mistakes he's made in life.

"When I had all of those problems, I let a lot of people down," he admits. "But, I'm back and I believe that once you've been through the worst, if you manage to get back up, it's a lot easier to stay back up.'

Politicians on film: 'Yes we can!'



his year may go down in the history books as the year politics be-Came hip again. Barack Obama's "Yes we can!" vigor reignited America's political passion, helping to break a fortyyear-old Election Day turnout record and actually get people under the age of seventy to tune into Meet the Press.

That excitement has infected Hollywood as well. This year sees three high profile political biographies hit theatres: W., about the life and wild times of George W. Bush; the soon-to-be released Frost/Nixon; and this week's limited release Milk, starring Sean Penn as the first openly gay man elected to public office in the USA.

Hollywood has often looked to politics for inspiration. Anthony Hopkins's robes and are perpetually portrayal of rubber-stoned on LSD. cheeked Tricky Dicky in Nixon was nominated for a Best Actor Oscar, as was Raymond Massey's take on the 16th president in Abe Lincoln in Illinois, Alexander Knox's Woodrow Wilson in Wilson and James Whitmore as Harry Truman in Give 'em Hell, Har-

Not all political movies earn Oscar consideration, but that doesn't mean they aren't entertaining. Wild in the Streets, a 1968 counter-culture cult film about Max Frost, a multimillionaire rock star with plans to take over the government, is one of the wilder political "what-if" films.

Frost's scheme begins with staged riots on the Sunset Strip. Next he spikes Washington's drinking water supply with LSD and while D.C.'s powerbrokers are hallucinating he gets them to pass a law lowering the age limit for all elected offices to 14. Soon he wins the Oval Office, immediately imprisoning everyone over 30 in concentration camps where they wear dark

Max's plan just might land him in trouble, however, when the next generation adopts the new slo-"We're gonna put gan: everybody over 10 out of business.'

Seen through today's eyes the film is little more than a fun, druggy artifact from the freewheeling sixties, but at the time its message was taken seriously by some in the establishment. At 1968's Presidential Convention the Mayor of Chicago hired security to protect the city's water supply from being laced with LSD.

Other unconventional political films include Whoops Apocalypse which sees America's first female president, played M*A*S*H's Loretta Swit, try to avoid World War III and 1964s Kisses for My President which focuses on the tough job of First Husband as he puts a masculine spin on the role of First Lady, hosting women's groups and garden parties.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.





28 movies & entertainment

Movie **morsels**



Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn star in the comedy Four Christmases.

Australia

⊕⊕⊕

REVIEW Australia is a beautifully filmed study of a vast land that — as one character says — has "a strange power." What di-Baz Luhrmann rector should fret over is the drawn-out narrative that plays to melodramatic excess. Set during the outbreak of World War II, Australia features Nicole Kidman as Lady Ashley, widow of a mysteriously murdered cattle ranch owner. When confronted by her husband's rival with a takeover bid, Ashley hires a maverick stockman (Hugh Jackman) and joins him on a massive cattle drive across the outback. Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Bolt

DUL

REVIEW Essentially, this tale about the unyielding loyalty of canines is as charming and heart-tugging as any Disney movie out there. Even better, the film excels in skill, depth and maturity equaling that of Wall-E and Ratatouille. Not really surprising since Pixar's brilliant chief John Lasseter is now running Disney's animation department as well.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Changeling

₩₩₩

REVIEW Directed by legendary icon Clint Eastwood, Changeling tells the emotional journey of Christine Collins (Angelina

Jolie), a single mother in 1920s Los Angeles who comes home to find her son missing. Following weeks of relentless searching, the police suddenly show up with her child, reporters in tow. Great. Only there's a catch: It ain't him.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Four Christmases

₩₩

REVIEW Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon star as a professional couple who always avoid their families during the holidays. After the film's worst plot contrivance traps them in the country and broadcasts their availability to their kin, the couple - Vince-Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon — embark on their dreaded four Christmases. Sure, this is no future Christmas classic, but it will be a movie that you won't angrily turn off when it starts airing on television during the holidays. Phil Brown/Metro Canada

High School Musical 3: Senior Year

###%

REVIEW It's very likely that only a handful of adults have seen the previous two High School Musical incarnations that follow the dancing and singing students of Albuquerque's Eastside High. Adults can actually attend the movie without too much fear. Sure, the storyline is very basic, and squeaky Mickey Mouse-clean — you may doze off occasionally —

but there is great energy in this film. Steve Veale/For Metro Canada

Quantum of Solace

⊕⊕⊕

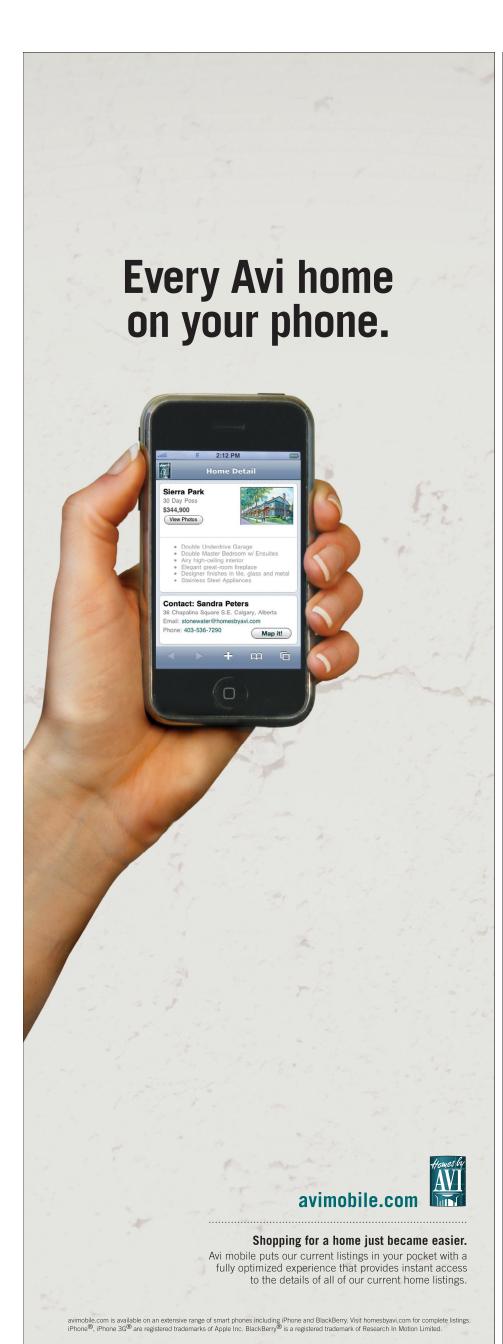
REVIEW The movie starts literally minutes after its predecessor, Casino Royale, ended, with a pre-credit car chase that sums up director Marc Forster's brisk approach to the story. Action scenes are the meat of Bond movies. Most of what we see in Quantum of Solace is at least as good as the standards set in previous films; relentless, and more than a bit improbable. Daniel Craig's James Bond is still an excellent incarnation of the character. Rick McGinnis/Metro Canada

Transporter 3

₩₩%

REVIEW The latest entry in the lucrative but critically maligned franchise, simply called Transporter 3, once more pits an iron jawed, black belt-sporting mercenary driver Frank Martin against a cabal of greasy well tailored international baddies. And while the film boasts the same clunky narrative problems and distractingly dubbed European actors as the first two instalments, I'm happy to report that the breathlessly paced Transporter makes amends by delivering some of the most delirious action set pieces of this year.

Chris Alexander/Metro Canada



Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in red.

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Appaloosa (14A) Fri-Thu 3:45-7:05 Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7

City of Ember (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4-7:10 The Dark Knight (PG) Fri-Thu 1:4:15-8:15 The Duchess (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-9:10 Eagle Eye (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-6:50-9:35 Ghost Town (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:40-7:25-

Igor (PG) Fri-Thu 3:50-7:05 Mamma Mia! (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-7:20-

9:50 My Best Friend's Girl (18A) Fri-Thu 1:20-

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG)
Fri-Thu 1:10-9:40

Nights in Rodanthe (PG) Fri-Thu 3:35-7:20 Quarantine (18A) Fri-Thu 9:35 RocknRolla (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35 Tropic Thunder (14A) Fri-Thu 9:35 WALL-E (G) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:50

CROWFOOT CROSSING 91 Crowfoot Terrace, 403-547-3316

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 2-6:30-10 Body of Lies (14A) Fri-Thu 3:40-10:20 Bolt (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 12-2:45-57:30-9:55 No Passes Tue 5-7:30-9:55 No Passes Wed-Thu 12-2:45-57:30-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1

Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-7:05 Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:20-12:50-3:20-3:50-6:50-7:10-9:30-10:10 No Passes Tue 12:20-3:20-3:50-6:50-7:10-9:30-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-12:50-3:20-3:50-6:50-7:10-9:30-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:50-5:10-7:35-9:50

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:45-9:45-10:30 Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:20-

10:05 **Transporter 3** (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:40

Twilight (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-1:10-3:30-4:10-6:45-7:15-9:40-10:15 Thu 1:40-4:30-

6:50-9:30

EAU CLAIRE MARKET 200 Barlay Parade, 403-263-3166

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri 8 No Passes Sat-Sun 12-4-8 No Passes Mon-Thu 8

Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri 7:10-9:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:35-3:35-7:10-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:45

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri 7-10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-7-10 Mon-Thu 7-10 Rachel Getting Married (STC) Fri 6:50-

9:50 Sat-Sun 12:15-3-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50 Synecdoche, New York (14A) Fri 6:30-

6:30-9:30 **Twilight** (PG) No Passes Fri 6:40-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:40-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40

EMPIRE STUDIO 16 COUNTRY HILLS 388 Country Hills Blvd., 403-686-8491

Australia (PG) No Passes, Polby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:05-12:35-3:40-4:10-8-9 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 8-9

Bolt (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:45-3-7:25-9:35 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:25-9:35

Bolt in Disney Digital 3D (G) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:15-2:30-7-9:15 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7-9:15

Changeling (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:40

Death Note 2: The Last Name (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 7 Four Christmases (PG) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 12:30-12:50-3:20-6:50-7:20-9:10-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 12:30-2:50-3:20-6:50-7:20-9:10-9:45 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-

Thu 6:50-7:20-9:10-9:45 **High School Musical 3: Senior Year** (G)
SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon
12:20-2:55

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12-2:15-6:30-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Sun

12-6:30-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 12-2:15-6:30-9 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium

Passchendaele (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:15-4-6:55 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:55

Quantum of Solace (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:10-12:40-1:10-2:45-3:15-3:45-6:40-7:10-7:35-9:20-9:40-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 6:40-7:10-7:35-9:20-9:40-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 6:40-7:10-9:20-9:40-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 6:40-7:10-7:35-9:20-9:40-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Thu

Role Models (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:20-3:55-7:45-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:45-

Transporter 3 (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:40-4:15-7:30-10:05 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 7:30-10:05

Twilight (PG) No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 12:50-1:20-3:35-4:05-6:45-7:15-9:30-10 No Passes, SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 6:45-7:15-9:30-10

Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 7:40-10:15 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7:40-10:10

EMPIRE STUDIO 10 MACLEOD TRAIL 100-16061 MacLeod Tr., 403-974-0470

Australia (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12:15-3:50-7:45-9:15 Bolt (G) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-

Thu 11:45-2:10-4:30-7-9:20

Don Carlo - Verdi (Opera) (STC) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 1 SR Dolby Digital,

Stadium Seating Sun 1
Four Christmases (PG) Stadium Seating, SR
Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 1:15-3:30-7:20-9:45 Stadium Seating Wed 11

High School Musical 3: Senior Year (G) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:20-6:40

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby Digital Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:40-6:50-9:25

Quantum of Solace (14A) SR Dolby Digital,

Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1-1:30-3:40-4:10-6:45-7:15-9:40-10:10 SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:30-3:40-4:10-6:45-7:15-9:40-10:10

Role Models (14A) DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 2-4:257:05-9:30 DTS Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 7:05-9:30 DTS Digital, Staditadium Seating Mon-Thu 2-4:25-7:05-9:30 Transporter 3 (14A) SR Dolby Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:20-7:30-10:15 Twilight (PG) Stadium Seating, SR Dolby

Digital Fri-Thu 12:30-4-7:10-10

GLOBE CINEMA 617-8 Avenue, 403-262-3308

Brick Lane (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 1-3:25-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25

What Just Happened? (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30

MOVIEDOME

1039 999 36 St., 403-248-2000

Appaloosa (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:55-

Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:40

12:55-3:55-6:40 **Burn After Reading** (14A) Fri-Thu 1:05 3:50-7-9:50

The Dark Knight (PG) Fri-Thu 7:30

Dostana (PG) Fri-Thu 9:15

Facle Fig. (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-2:25-6:45-0:2

Eagle Eye (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:45-9:35 Igor (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10 Lakeview Terrace (14A) Fri-Thu 6:50-9:45 Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist (PG)

Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:05-9:55 **Oye Lucky! Lucky Oye!** (STC) Fri-Thu 2-6:30-9:30

Quarantine (18A) Fri-Thu 1-4-7:10-10 **WALL-E** (G) Fri-Thu 1-3:45

SCOTIABANK CHINOOK 6455 MacLeod Trail, 403-212-8994

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-4-8 No Passes Fri-Thu 2-6:30-10:10 **Bolt** (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-3:45-6:50-9:30 No Passes Fri-Thu 11:45-2:15-4:50-7:20-

Changeling (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:40-7:05-10:20 Mon 12:15-7:05-10:20 Tue 12:15-3:40-7:05-10:20 Wed 12:15-3:40-7:05 Thu 12:15-

3:40-7:05-10:20

Death Note 2: The Last Name (14A)

Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-1:10-3:40-4:20-7:05-7:35-9:40-10:20 Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7:15-10:05

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa: The IMAX Experience (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:40-7-9:20

Munk Debates (STC) Mon 4:45 Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 1-1:30-4-4:30-7-7:30-10-10:30

Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:10-10:10 Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:25-7:25-

10:25 **Twilight** (PG) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:15-1-

130-3:15-4-4:30-6:45-7:10-7:30-9:50-10:15-10:35 No Passes Thu 12:15-1-1:30-3:15-3:55-4:30-6:45-7:10-7:30-9:50-10:15-10:35

Zack and Miri Make a Porno (18A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:10-7:15-10:10 Mon 1:15-4:10-10:10 Tue-Wed 1:15-4:10-7:15-10:10 Thu 1:15-4:10-10:10

PLAZA THEATRE

1133 Kensington Rd., 403-283-3636

Live and Become (STC) Sun 4:30 Re-Animator (STC) Thu 7 Surrealism on Film (STC) Sat 7 Tell No One (14A) Fri 9:20 Sat-Sun 2 Thu

Triage: Dr. James Orbinski's Humanitarian Dilemma (14A) Fri 4:50-7:10 Sat 12-4:50 Sun 12-7:10 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:10 Thu 7:10

SUNRIDGE SPECTRUM 2555 32nd Street, 403-717-1200

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:25-2:30-4-6:30-7:40-10:20

Bott (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 1-3:35-7-9:30 No Passes Tue 3:35-7-9:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 1-3:35-7-9:30 No Passes Fri-Thu 12-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1

Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:55-2:40-3:20-5-6:55-7:20-9:35-10 No Passes Tue 2:40-3:20-5-6:55-7:20-9:35-10 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:55-2:40-3:20-5-6:55-7:20-9:35-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Tue 1 **High School Musical 3: Senior Year** (G)

Fri-Thu 12:05

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-12:45-2:45-3:25-5:10-6:40-7:30-9:55 Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-12:50-3:10-3:40-6:35-7:10-9:25-10:05 Role Models (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:05-7:05-

Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:30-6:50-9:40

6:50-9:40 **Twilight** (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-12:40-

3:15-3:45-6:45-7:15-9:15-9:50-10:25 UPTOWN STAGE & SCREEN

612 8th Ave., 403-265-0120

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (PG) Fri 6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:10

Happy-Go-Lucky (14A) Fri 9 Sat-Sun 2:20-9

Mon-Thu 9
The Last Continent (G) Mon 7
Outsourced (PG) Fri 5-7 Sat 12:15-5-7 Sun
12:15-7 Mon 5 Tue-Thu 5-7

Religulous (14A) Fri-Thu 4:50

WESTHILLS 10 165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291

165 Stewart Green, 403-246-5291 **Australia** (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:45-4:20-

Australia (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:45-4:20-8 No Passes Mon-Thu 5-8:40 Bolt (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-2:20-4:45-7:20-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:35-8 Changeling (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:50-7:05

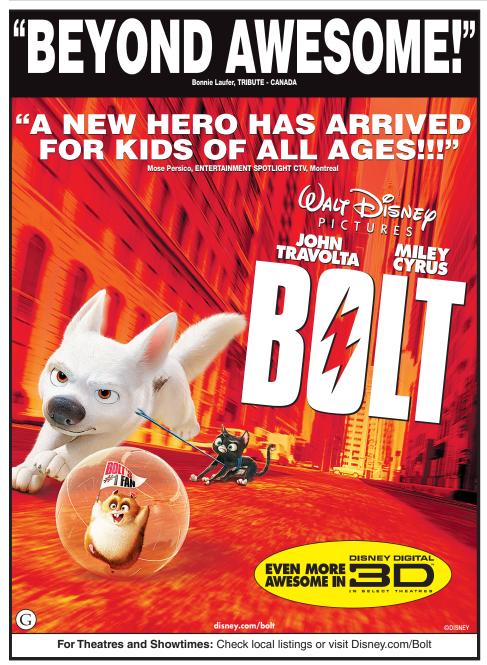
Mon-Thu 6

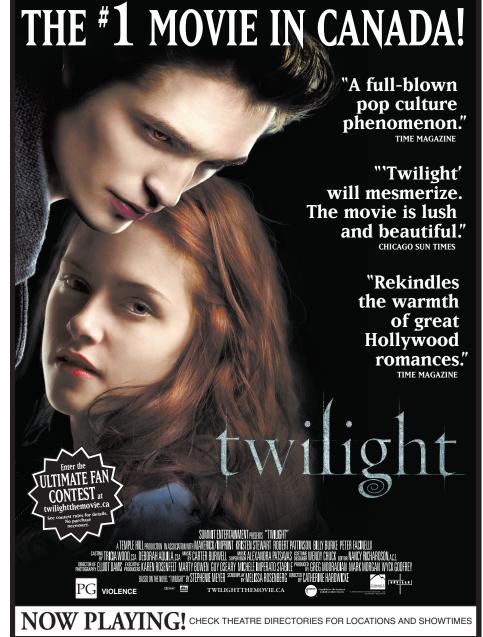
Four Christmases (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun
12:10-3:20-7-9:25 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:25-

7:50 **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa** (G) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:35-6:55-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:15-7:45

Quantum of Solace (14A) Fri-Sun 12:55-4:05-6:50-9:40-10:10 Mon-Wed 6:05-8:30-9 Thu 6:05-9 Rachel Getting Married (STC) Fri-Sun 1-4:10-7:15-10 Mon-Wed 6:10-8:45 Thu 8:45 Transporter 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:30-

7:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:05 **Twilight** (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:50-1:05-3:10-3:55-6:40-7:10-9:30-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-5:55-8:15-8:50





The bestselling albums at Amazon.ca

1. And Winter Came, Enya, left; 2. A Winter Symphony, Sarah Brightman; 3. A Midwinter Night's Dream, Loreena McKennitt; 4. Chinese Democracy, Guns N' Roses; 5. Promise, Il Divo. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Guns pointed at Dr. Pepper

BANDS The lawyer for Guns N' Roses and Axl Rose has castigated Dr. Pepper, accusing the soda maker of failing to deliver on its promotion to offer free soda in celebration of the band's new album, Chinese Democracy. Guns N' Roses was never involved in the campaign.

A lawyer for the band has accused the company of operating an online redemption scheme that was an "unmitigated disaster which defrauded customers." REUTERS



Raphael Saadiq's R&B revival

metronews.ca

Singer-songwriter captures old-school sounds on latest album

JIM REYNO

The way he sees it, Raphael Saadiq figured it was time to get back to his roots. So that's what he did, and he did it pretty well all by himself.

Saadiq's most recent album, The Way I See It, sounds dated - that was the intention, and that's a compliment. The album brings back the sunny, infectious melodies of early R&B. Think Temps, Tops, Little Stevie and Smokey.

"My inspiration is basically a life of growing up around real music," Saadiq said in a recent interview from his studio in Los Angeles. "That genre of music is just something that I really loved, and is really close to my heart. And I just wanted to share it with listeners.'

There's a warmth on The



Raphael Saadiq's most recent album, The Way I See It brings back the sunny, infectious melodies of early R&B. Think Temps, Tops, Little Stevie and Smokey.

Way I See It that comes from Saadiq's decision to go with "real music;" real piano, drums, bass, guitar even strings on some tracks — instead of taking the modern route and using drum machines and programming. He wanted

that organic feel.

"If you play keyboards and you write on a keyboard, and then you go sit at a grand piano, you write differently," said Saadiq, former vocalist with R&B group Tony! Toni! Toné! "That's my experience. I

write differently on a keyboard than I do on a grand piano.

"The natural feel just takes you a little higher."

Not only did Saadiq sing and play guitar, bass, piano and drums on the album, he also added sitar to two

produced it. He finished The Way I See It in four months.

"I think it would have probably taken longer if I had brought in people, the way I did it," Saadiq said about using more musicians on the album. "It doesn't take that long to throw a rhythm section together, for me. To go play the drums, play guitar, play the bass — that could take me all of 15, 20 minutes."

Saadiq is enjoying the reaction his new album is receiving. It's getting rave reviews, and — more importantly — fans are raving.

"It feels really great to know that people really want to hear the music, said Saadiq. "I'm still trying to soak it up, you know? The more I talk to people, different journalists — or go play a show. That's when you can really



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metronews.ca Weekend, November 28-30, 2008

This Day In Music History

On this day in 1964, Willie Nelson, right, makes his debut on the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn.



Music

Music notes for Christmas



t's Black Friday in America, the traditional start of the full-contact holiday shopping frenzy. Even though for most Canadians it's just another day at work, the thought of working through the Christmas lists has no doubt begun to inspire that familiar mix of dread and nausea.

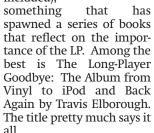
But I'm here to help. I've always been a big giver of books because I believe people need to read more. Feel

free to tear out this page and use it as a shopping list. For the Punk Fan: The Clash



material keeps on coming. This year, there's a fantastic coffee table book (A coffee table book? About punk? And it's pink?) simply called The Clash. It's officially sanctioned by the band and its heirs and contains history, eye-witness accounts and photographs never before seen by anyone. Marvelous. • For the Turntable Freak:

Vinyl records are back in vogue for a certain group of obsessives (yours truly included),



LONG-PLAYER

• For the Indie Fan: Dean Wareham used to head up a couple of excellent American indie bands — Galaxie 500 and Luthat na fell between the cracks during the grunge revolution of 90s. the



He's written a memoire detailing the experience in heartbreaking detail called Black Postcards: A Rock & Roll Romance. Rock writing doesn't get much more personal than this.

 For the Outsider Looking In: Danny

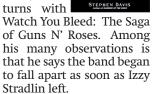
Goldberg's resume includes everything from doing PR for Led Zeppelin to running



with Springsteen, Kiss, Patti

Smith and many others. For the GnR Fan Who STILL Can't Get Enough:

Stephen Davis, author of the definitive Zeppelin bio, Hammer of the Gods, re-



 For Those Who Would Rather Just Listen: Sorry

about the shameless plug, but The Alan Cross



ternative Rock, Vols. 1-4 are out now. Audio books are great for the commute.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada, Read more at exploremusic.com and ongoinghistory.com

Beyoncé tops chart

Beyoncé has scored her third straight No. 1 debut on the pop album chart with the double-disc I Am ... Sasha Fierce.

The Music World/Columbia album shifted a whopping 482,000 copies in the United States during the week ended Nov. 23, according to Nielsen Sound-Scan. The set, split between material credited to R&B star Beyoncé and her new alter-ego, Sasha Fierce, has already spawned the hits If I Were a Boy and Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It). Be-



gerously in Love, started with 317,000, while 2006's

B-Day moved 541,000.

In a week with seven top 20 debuts on the Billboard 200, Nickelback's Dark Horse sold 326,000 to start at No. 2. The rock outfit spent 156 weeks on the chart with previous album, 2005's All the Right Reasons. REUTERS

Metro recommends

• TAYLOR SWIFT, FEARLESS:

Near perfect synergy of country twang and classy pop from a refreshingly open-hearted and golden-voiced teenager.



• LIONESS, SELF-TITLED:

Haunting chanteuse amps up dark disco-infused electronica grand enough to suit either the dancefloor or your headphones.



• T-PAIN, THR33 RINGZ:

Raspy auto-tuned MC delivers a jovial variety show of R&B love jams and hip-hop club bangers. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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32 movies&entertainment



Late actor Heath Ledger's tragic death has reportedly inspired a new episode of U.S. TV crime drama Law & Order. Ledger died from a prescription drug overdose in January. IMDB.COM

Television



FIRST THE GOOD NEWS: There are people who wouldn't consider it good news -I'm thinking of the nice but misguided souls behind TV Turnoff Week, or whatever they're calling it now — but as someone who can't see the downside of people getting more and more of their entertainment in the comfort of their homes, I was happy to read early this week that a new Nielsen study says that Americans are watching more TV.

Homes, spokesman for Nielsen, told the Los Angeles Times that part of the reason is that there are more TVs in homes now. "That means that little Suzie can watch Gossip Girl in her bedroom," the Times wrote, "while Mom watches Dancing with the Stars in the basement and Dad watches football in the den. There also are more and more niche channels, which means more people are interested in the shows currently on TV, (Homes) said. This year, the Olympics and the political campaigns brought a lot of people to TVs who wouldn't necessarily have been watching so much."

All of which falls into the

the tube these days than it was when I was a kid, and sent to psychiatrists who were obsessed with thenvoguish concerns about "TV addiction" and brain development. TV viewing on average us up about five hours a month from the same time last year, and timeshifted viewing is up 50 per cent, an increase that's likely to continue if the economy stays sour. Internet viewing is also on the rise, and will probably persist as consumers trim back on entertainment expenses. You can call file that news under obvious as well.

A more epochal sign of the times is the news that Fox, likely leading the pack as usual, is putting an end to Saturday morning cartoons, a TV programming institution since the dawn of the medium. Cable channels like Nickelodeon, Disney and the Cartoon Network, as well as Canadian networks such as YTV, Teletoon and Treehouse, have made the programming block obsolete, so Fox is turning it over to infomercials, and another cultural institution goes the way of late night movies, afterschool specials and Billy Graham specials on prime-

> Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

TV viewers on the up and up — well, duh "duh" category, though for some reason it's easier for me to get away with a whole evening in front of whole even of whole evening in front of whole evening in front of whole evening in front of whole even of whol

BRIAN COULTON



When Jason Priestley was a young actor, he always used to see the notification cards given to nominees of Gemini Awards — Canada's highest television honour. But he never got one.

"I realized it was because I always work in America and of course I never get nominated for Geminis," says the Vancouver-born actor/director. "I started making a much more concerted effort to work more in Canada, thinking that one day I'd get nominated for a Gemini," he says airily, looking into the distance.

And, in 2003, he finally did ... but he didn't win.

So when the event's organizers asked him to hand out an award at last year's ceremony, he didn't have to think twice. "Of course, I got on a plane and I flew to Regina and I presented an award at the Geminis. (I was) very excited to do that!" proclaims Priestley.

Now, five years later, Priestley will retire the 90210 zip code where he found fame as Brandon Walsh for M5V 2W6, the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, where he'll switch roles to host this year's awards.

Free!



Actor Jason Priestley will host the Gemini Awards tonight.

"This is my penultimate goal — hosting the Geminis. Every year, I feel like I'm just getting a little bit closer to my actual goal of actually winning a Gemini! Baby steps, you know what I mean?" he jokes.

It's not the first time the star has come home to host. In 1998, he emceed the Juno Awards — the nation's highest music honour. According to Priestley, his 10year hosting hiatus has only benefited him.

"I'm 10 years older. I'm 10 pounds heavier. And that's going to make me 10 times better," he says, drawing laughs from his wife near"I'm 10 years older. I'm 10 pounds heavier. And that's going to make me 10 times better."

But it wasn't Priestley's past awards experience that he believes drove Gemini organizers choice.

"Apparently everybody else was booked and they got to the bottom of the list, they saw Jason Priestley and said, 'Meh, let's take a shot," he says, mockingly. "Seriously. Deal or No Deal is five nights a week. Howie Mandel couldn't make it. Here I am!'

And for those more at-

Actor Jason Priestley

tuned to American shows like Mandel's over Canadian ones, Priestley says to watch the Gemini Awards, because you might be surprised by what you see.

"In one hour, you get to see a cross-section of the best in Canadian television and then, maybe something will spark with you and you'll go, 'Yeah, I'm going to put that on my PVR and I'll check it out later ... After I watch Jon Stewart."

artcentral

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Rick's TV**Picks**

Barrio 19

Air date: Nov. 29

Network: MTV2

FROM HIP-HOPPERS and beat-boxers to free-stylers and free-runners, middle class kids wannabes get to learn once again why poor kids are cooler.

Britney: For The Récord

Air date: Nov. 30 Network: MuchMusic

BECASUE nothing says cautionary tale like the story of the girl who made "ex-Mouseketeer" into a vaguely obscene epithet.

So you think **Yoú Can Dance**

Air date: Dec. 3 **Network: CTV**

THE end is near, as the final four are about to become the final two.

> RICK MCGINNIS/ **METRO CANADA**



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movies&entertainment 33

Mix of Six

HOT & HAPPENING WEEKEND EVENTS

Do Good, Have Fun

Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m. Flames Central 219 8th Avenue SW

Hip hop act k-os and MTV personality Nicole Holness are only two of six performers on this loaded bill. The \$30 ticket benefits locally based Christmas Future, a non-profit aimed at ending poverty.

Still Not Haute Enough For You?

Starts Nov. 29 Axis Contemporary Art 100 7th Ave. SW

Need more Marilyn? Crawl into bed with her. This Art Central space showcases photos taken one night in 1961 by Canadian Douglas Kirkland. The starlet stares dreamily into the lens, covered only by a white sheet.

'Tis the Season, Almost

Nov. 30, 7 p.m. Confederation Park 24th Avenue and 14th Street SW

Bundle up the kiddies for the 22nd annual Lions Festival of Lights. The park twinkles and glows with 78,000 coloured bulbs and Christmas greetings in 17 languages until Jan. 8.

Legendary Life

Starts Nov. 29 Glenbow Museum 130 9th Avenue SE

Two separate Marilyn Monroe exhibits grace Calgary. Life as a Legend features hundreds of original blond bombshell images. Some Like it Haute brings together her most memorable costumes like that famous little white dress from The Seven Year Itch. Adult admission is \$14.

Surreal Experience

Nov. 29, 7 p.m. Plaza Theatre, Kensington 1133 Kensington Road NW

The Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers draws on local talent and abroad for its Surrealism on Film festival. The grand finale is a Salvador Dali movie called Un Chien Andalou. The \$10 ticket includes a spoken word performance and an after-party.

I Dream of Patti

Dec. 1, 7 p.m. Epcor Centre's Engineered Air Theatre 205 8th Avenue SE

Enter the world inhabited by godmother of punk Patti Smith. Movies That Matter presents the film, narrated by Smith herself.

SATURDAY

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 back packs golf clubs instruments
- expensive suitcases or other kind of luggage?

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Metro's **7**th **Heaven:** Metro taps what's hot right now

Britney's comeback

All eyes will be on singer Britney Spears as she performs on the MTV Video Music Awards on Tuesday, Dec. 2. This show will be her first live performance since her MTV Video Awards disaster last year. The show also coincides with her 27th birthday.

"Hot" chocolate
To add a kick to your

holiday parties, serve guests spiced hot chocolate.
Try mixing cinnamon, ancho or chili powder into the drink, and be sure to use either dark chocolate or unsweetened cocoa powder.

Chunky baubles
The hottest accessories right now are thick, jewel-encrusted necklaces and bracelets.
Sparkle and shine by picking up jewelry with large crystals

and prominent metalwork.

After the stunning success of the Twilight movie at box offices around the world, director Catherine Hardwicke is also talking about directing the sequel New Moon. The New Moon script has already been completed, exciting eager fans in the process.

West wows

Kanye West released his latest album, 808s and Heartbreak, this week. The disc marks a departure from West's traditional musical fare, as he sings through AutoTune software instead of rapping.

Less-extravagant gifts
As the economy continues to falter, consumers are embracing smaller and more frugal gifts for Christmas. Even Oprah has adopted this trend by featuring less expensive items on her popular Favourite Things episode.

Cheerful carols
What better way to nurture your
Christmas spirit than by listening
to some holiday tunes? Whether
it's Frank, Bing, or Mariah, Christmas music is now a seasonal staple in stores and

7:00 11:00 7:30 8:00 10:00 Hollywood 243 317 3 CFCN etalk Law & Order "Bling Shost Whisperer (HDTV) Ghost Whisperer (HDTV) News (N) sy). Nona Gaye The Insider (N) 371 5 KXLY 4 News at 6 4 News at 6:30 Entertainment The Polar Express ★★★ (2004, 20/20 245 306 6 CBRT Coronation St. Air Farce-Final Rick Mercer CBC News: The National The Hour Jeopardy! (N) News Hour 244 338 7 CICT ET Canada Entertainment 90210 "The Jet Se NUMB3RS (HDTV) 90210 - 8 CKAL Law & Order: SVU Murdoch Mysteries Your City The Price Is Right Special Crusoe 119 705 9 CBXFT Paquet voleur (HDTV) (SC) Une heure sur Terre (SC Le Téléjournal (N) (SC À communiquer - 372 12 KREM News (N) Hollywood - 374 14 KSPS NewsHour With Jim Lehrer Ghost Whisperer (HDTV) NOW on PBS Being Served Hollywood The Doctors (N Ghost Whisperer (HDTV) NUMB3RS Bill Moyers Journal (N) Vicar of Dibley Wash. Week 370 16 KHQ Be-Millionaire Wheel-Fortune News (N) Jeopardy! (N) The Incredibles ★★★ (2004, Adv ure) Voices of Craig T. Nelson 373 22 KAYU The Simpsons The Simpsons Two/Half Men Two/Half Men The School of Rock ★★★ (2003) nedy) Jack Black News (N) CBC News: The National 502 390 15 CBC CBC News: The National CBC News: the fifth estate CBC News: The National fifth estat 500 500 29 CNN Larry King Live Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV) Larry King Live Cooper 360 CTV Newsnet CTV Newsnet 501 391 52 CTV CTV Newsnet CTV Newsnet News 400 400 21 TSN Basketball That's Hockey! Off the Record 408 418 27 net Saturday Night Poker 552 543 20 YTV The Mighty B! iCarly **FSN Pro Football Preview** Hockey Central Flames Week Ult. Fighter Sportsnet Connected Uptown Girls ★★ (2003, Comedy) Brittany Murphy Smallville "Gemini" Dark Oracle Dennis the Menace ★★ (1993 Co. 557 541 39 FAM Zoey 101 Latest Buzz Wizards-Place Mr. Nanny ★★ (- 18 CHTV The Insider (N) Gemini Red 22nd Annual Genesis Awards Heidi Klum: THS 20/20 (HDTV) News (N) 603 561 25 FOOD Chef Abroad Ace of Cakes Diner, Drive-In Diner, Drive-In Chef Abroad 615 520 26 A&E CSI: Miami (617 522 32 SHOW EastEnders CSI: Miami (HDT CSI: Miami (HDTV Criminal Minds (HDTV) CSI: Miami (HDTV CSI: Miami Red Carpet Kenny-Spenny Trailer Park Webdreams Gemini Awards (N) Testees Earthshocks: Ring of Fire 520 505 35 DISC Man vs. Wild "Za Daily Planet Man vs. Wild "Zambia" Greensburg 628 584 43 SPIKE (6) Star Wars IV: A New Hope (19 522 516 45 HIST Ultimate Engineering CSI: NY (HDTV) MANswers Science Fiction MANswers GameTrailers NCIS "Red Ce Ultimate Engin Ax Men Shockwave 581 566 102 MTV Paris Hilton's My New BFF The Hills The Hills After Show The Hills

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understands her the way

her mother did. They had a

very strong bond that she

feels she will never have

Jolie reportedly depends

on partner Brad Pitt for

darkest

spirits.

his

support during her

and also relies

on her six chil-

"Brad has been

dren to raise her

her rock, and he

will always be there for her," the source

added. "Without

love,

would never have

been able to cope."

times,

she

METRO NEWS

with another person."

34 entertainment



Celebrity Buzz

Photog defends Miley shots

CONTROVERSY Celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz insists her controversial Miley Cyrus shoot for Vanity Fair was justified, because the pictures of the teenager were "innocent," imdb.com reports.

Leibovitz's photos of the singer/actress, wearing just a blanket wrapped around her bare back and chest, caused outrage earlier this year because she was just 15 years old at the time.

The photographer is adamant the results were misinterpreted.

'The Miley picture was a beautiful, strong, simple picture," she tells the New . York Post. "I think it's actually sort of innocent on some level. She loved taking that picture, and she was ready to take that pic-

ture. It's just that her audience wasn't ady.' NEWS SERVICES

Winslet loves new wrinkles

PEOPLE Kate Winslet says she "loves" her wrinkles, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 33-year-old actress insists she would never have Botox injected into her forehead because she enjoys seeing her face change as she gets

older. "I just love seeing those things," she says. "I am enjoying my face changing.' METRO



Britney's alleged diet sparks worry

PEOPLE Pop star Britney Spears, who recently unveiled a newly toned figure which she claims is due to a healthy eating and fitness regime, is battling an eating disorder, one of her bodyguards has allegedly revealed.

"Britney's diet consists



of Taco Bell and turkey jerky washed down with Red Bull," a source close to one of Spears' bodyguards told Star magazine.

It has also been claimed the 26-year-old star is taking diet pills in order to maintain her new slim

shape.
"The pills are like diuretics," another source said. "It just runs right through

Spears, who is said to have lost around 28 pounds in the last year, reportedly starting shedding weight when she began training for her upcoming world tour.

"Britney is thrilled she has finally got her prebaby body," the source said. "But we are really worried she might not be going about it in the healthiest way."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

line's departure. believing

Law, Frost back together?

Jolie still mourns mom

whose

FAMILY Angelina Jolie is

"still a mess" over the

death of her mother, fe-

actress,

mother died in January

2007, is still struggling to

come to terms with life

without Marcheline

Bertrand, and is wor-

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but she is only

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source said.

"She is still

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over

Marche-

one else again. "She has to keep

malefirst.co.uk reports.

The

Law and Sadie Frost have sparked rumours of a reconciliation after going house hunting together, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The former couple, who

divorced in 2003 after six years of marriage, are said to be getting their relationship back on track and have decided to purchase a property to give the four children they raise together a home in the countryside.

"Jude and Sadie have been getting on fantastically in the past six months," source says. "He decided to help her buy some where Hampshire, in the countryside, a real family place.

They plan to

RELATIONSHIPS Actor Jude invest together and give their children a truly loving home.

> Law and Frost have also booked a vacation to South America with their kids so they can all spend Christ-

mas together. "They have always tried to stay on good terms for the sake of their kids and

Christmas is important to both of them. So this year they're splashing out on a luxury break to Brazil to spend the festive break as a family," the source adds to Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper. "Pals are desperately hoping a romantic reunion is on the

cards." METRO NEWS

Nun role won't suit Portman

ACTING Natalie Portman turned down the chance to play a nun opposite movie great Meryl Streep in Doubt because she can't get her head around celibacy, imdb.com reports.

The actress was at one point very interested in the movie adaptation of John Patrick Shanley's hit play but she turned the part down because she couldn't see herself as a lifelong virgin.

The playwright who also directed the movie told GossipSauce.com: "Natalie was very interested but kept saying she had a problem. And we finally nailed down as to what the problem

was: She basically said she didn't understand celibacy.'

METRO NEWS SERVICES



RELATIONSHIPS Whitney Houston has denied reports she's reunited with ex-husband Bobby Brown after the pair was spotted enjoying a romantic dinner together in Georgia, imdb.com reports.

The two sparked reports they had rekindled their romance after photos surfaced of the pair spending time together, reports the Chicago Sun Times.

> Her spokesperson said they remain separate but "good friends." **METRO**

NEWS **SERVICES**

Reese a shy speaker

PEOPLE Reese Witherspoon was devastated when she won an Academy Award in 2006 for her role in Johnny Cash biopic Walk The Line, because it forced her to confront her fear of

public speaking, imdb.com ports. While all the other best

actress nominees at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre hoped and prayed for their names to be read out, Witherspoon insists she wasn't ready to step up onstage and address the

star-studded audience. "The whole time I was

sitting there, hoping they wouldn't call my name, just because the idea of having to give a speech in front of everyone in the world is terrifying," she says. "It basically sums up who you are and you know it's going to be clip the that people show the for

rest your life.'

NEWS **SERVICES**







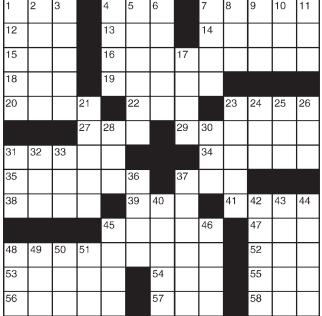


Partly Cloudy

Andrew Schultz, Weather Specialist – Breakfast Television ill shape up with ou



Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

6				3			9	
			8			1		
9		5			2	3		
		3						5
5		1	3		4	7		6
2						8		
		7	2			9		3
		6			5			
	2			8				4

Crossword across

1 Bug killer

4 "— Wiedersehen"

7 Son of Japheth

12 Second person

13 Chromosome component

14 Home

15 Under the weather 16 Titmouse's cousin

18 Ph. bk. info 19 Bizarre

20 CSA uniforms 22 Pi follower

23 Entreaty

27 Feedbag tidbit

31 Really bad

29 Swindle

34 Blue hue 35 Printed calico

37 Wood-shaping tool

38 Chinese gang

39 Have

41 Host

45 Wine option

47 Perfume label word

48 Taco Bell mascot

52 Sleeve contents

53 Made on a loom

54 Rowboat need

55 Poorly lit

56 Rendezvous

57 On in years

58 For example

Crossword down

1 Very eager (to) 2 Sorrow

3 Oklahoma city

4 Not pizzicato 5 Not needing medical

attention

6 Hill of music

7 Put together

8 Lawyers' org.

9 Pantheon member

10 "— to Joy 11 "Golly!"

17 Gator's kin

21 Mormon leader

23 Popular takeout entree 24 Baton Rouge sch.

25 Always, in verse 26 Pub order

28 Model Carol

30 Conned

31 Performance

32 One of the five W's

33 Dorsal appendage 36 "J'accuse" writer

37 Yearly

40 Rodeo rider's cry

42 Peruses

43 "West Side Story" song

44 "Delish!" 45 Batter's tactic

46 Jack, e.g.

48 100 lbs.

49 Perp. to vert.

50 Trellis climber

51 "- So Fine"

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

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SUDOKU	SOLVE TIME:
Heder 43	

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1	3	9	4	5	7	6	8	2
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8	9	4	7	3	5	2	1	6

Under 13 minGenius 13-17 min.....Scholar

17-21 minSmart 21-25 minNot bad

25+ min.....Keep practising

Sausages with Spiced

Metro Recipe of the Day

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/4 cup (300 mL) dry white wine

Wine and Apples

1/2 lb (230q) pork or chicken sausages

1 shallot or 1/2 small onion

2 crisp dessert apples

5 tbsp (70g) butter, at room temperature 3/4 cup (175 mL) chicken or

vegetable stock 2 tbsp (25 mL) light brown sugar

1/2 tsp (10 mL) ground cinnamon

METHOD:

1. Bring wine to boil in a large frying pan and poach sausages gently for 10 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, peel and grate shallot or onion; peel, quarter, core, and slice apples.

3. Gently melt small knob of

Remove sausages from first pan, reserving wine. Discard loose skins and fry sausages slowly in butter until browned all over.

butter in a second frying pan.

4. Meanwhile, add shallot or onion to white wine in first pan; with apples, stock, brown sugar, cinnamon and remaining butter. Bring mixture to boil, reduce heat and simmer until apples become tender and liquid is reduced to thin syrup. Serve with apple sauce.

SERVES 2

rd.ca

For nutritional infor mation on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on



AVATAR VENUS

Horoscopes

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20 A concerned friend helps you

to understand. It's too late to apologize for an impulsive reaction. Co-operation can help to break bad habits.

LIBRA SEPT 23-OCT 23

Let go of an argument before being forced to. You'll make a hasty decision. Contact a relative for peace of mind.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21

(M, Unexpected rules will lighten rebellion.

MAY 22-JUNE 21

A new job prospect is revealed by chance. The next few weeks bring fresh revelations. Put a stop to constant phone calls..

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22

your workload. A bully will cause a sleepless night. Ease your conscience about a minor

GEMINI

A hush-hush project will soon be in the news. Sort out the disorder in your affairs. An eccentric person reveals a history of defiance.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21

Someone is keeping an eye on you. Do something you've been afraid to try. Make an exit from a stifling stalemate.

CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

A sense of destiny lifts your mood. Confusion about acceptable behaviour is troubling. Tell people what they want to hear.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20 Don't drive anyone crazy with your ambitious plans. A conflict leads to torment for a friend. Prompt action outwits a protective person.

LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

Deep thoughts will baffle you. A friend comes clean about an ulterior motive. Carelessness leads to harsh words.

AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18

Be kind to a woman in love. A strange reaction should be observed closely. An old friend makes things right again.

VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22

Being guarded impedes your progress. Step in to ease the burdens of others. Disappointments will melt away by night

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20

A woman's suggestion will lessen your worries. Someone will leave the scene. A nerdy guy will cause amusing confusion.

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LA ESPERANZA ES JESUS "Jesus Is The Hope" Evangelistic series featuring Pastor Alejandro Bullon. In Spanish, with translation to English Presented by Calgary Maranatha Spanish SDA Church December 10th to 13th 2008 • 7:00pm Garden Road SDA Church Next turn after 84st and 16 ave NE

403-404-544H

www.calgarymaranathasda.com





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Northland Village (403) 247-8415

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#106, 743 Railway Ave (403) 678-0031 BANFF 317 Banff Av (403) 762-0655

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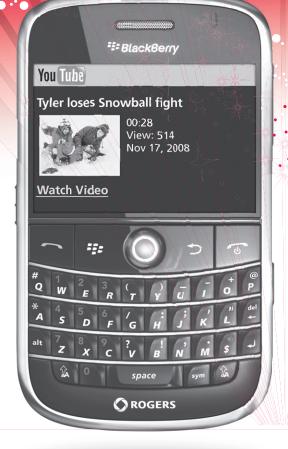












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